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What it's like to serve in a war zone — then see it from space

Navy Capt. Chris Cassidy on a spacewalk in May 2013.

NASA

Inset: Cassidy, front left, as a Navy SEAL in Afghanistan.

CHRIS CASSIDY/NASA

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

The International Space Station zooms through orbit, skimming above the Earth's surface so fast that it rounds the planet every 90 minutes — giving crew members dominion to look at just about any wonder of the world.

Navy Capt. Chris Cassidy's eyes were drawn to the sun-scorched dunes of Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Cassidy's platoon of SEALs carved positions to sleep in the sand over Christmas 2001, just a few months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. His men flushed out hardened al-Qaida fighters through claustrophobic cave routes. The SEALs got so close to some, Cassidy said, that abandoned bedrolls were still warm with body heat.

Then, more than a decade later, as Cassidy orbited 250 miles above the Earth, he knew where to find the familiar mountain foothills melting into sand.

"It made me send a few emails to my former teammates and say, 'Hey, just looking out the window and saw that sea of dunes,'" he



said during a phone interview. "It made me think back to those days."

Five current and former astronauts who served in three wars said combat played a significant role in their trajectory to the space program — where they became perhaps unlikely evangelists in the fight to protect a fragile planet.

SEE SPACE ON PAGE 8

Iran seizes tanker

By NASSER KARIMI
AND AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's Revolutionary Guard seized a foreign tanker accused of smuggling oil, Iran's state TV reported Thursday. The vessel appears to be a United Arab Emirates-based tanker that disappeared off trackers in Iranian territorial waters over the weekend.

The seizure was the latest in a series of dramatic developments as tensions mount between the U.S. and Iran over the unraveling nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

The Panamanian-flagged oil tanker MT Kiah stopped transmitting its location early Sunday near Qeshm Island, which has a Revolutionary Guard base on it, according to data listed on tracking site Maritime Traffic.

Iran's state television did not identify the seized vessel or nationalities of the crew, but said it was intercepted on Sunday. It said the oil tanker had 12 foreign crew members on board and was involved in transporting some 264,000 gallons of fuel from Iranian smugglers to foreign customers.

The report said the tanker was intercepted south of Iran's Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz. Larak is just southeast of the larger Qeshm Island.

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■ **Reports: Hundreds of US troops headed to Saudi Arabia**

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MILITARY

Gilday picked to be next chief of naval operations

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Vice Adm. Mike Gilday will be the next chief of naval operations, according to a senate announcement Wednesday on the nomination.

Gilday, a three-star admiral, is now the director of the Joint Staff, a position he has held since March. If confirmed, he would be promoted to a four-star admiral.

"The entire Navy should be very excited by today's announcement," Adm. John Richardson, the current chief of naval operations, said Thursday in a statement posted to his official Facebook page. "Adm. Mike Gilday is a true cutting edge warfighter, a surface warrior who, by virtue of his leadership at 10th Fleet, fully appreciates the challenges we face in the cyber warfare arena and the increasing pace of competition in new domains."

Gilday's nomination comes after Trump's first selection for CNO, Adm. William Moran, retired abruptly after reports that he had continued a professional relationship with Chris Servello, a former colleague who was removed from his position as a public affairs adviser to Richardson in 2017 following accusations of sexual misconduct, according to The Associated Press. Servello had also worked for Moran as a public affairs officer.

Gilday, a native of Lowell, Mass., is the son of a career sailor and has served as a surface warfare officer in the Navy since graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985, according to his Navy biography.

He has served on destroyers, including as commander of the USS Higgins and USS Benfold. Gilday also commanded Destroyer Squadron 7 while serving as sea combat commander for the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, according to the Navy.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Vice Adm. Mike Gilday is nominee to become chief of naval operations.

Gilday has served in Navy and joint senior leadership positions, including as the director of operations for NATO's Joint Force Command Lisbon and U.S. Cyber Command.

He earned a master's degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1993 and a second master's degree in 2006 from the National War College, located at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

His military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, four Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, a Bronze Star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with "V" device.

Russia offers to sell Turkey fighter jets

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A top Russian official says Moscow is ready to sell fighter jets to Turkey after the United States excluded Turkey from its fighter jet program.

Sergei Chemezov, head of Russia's state-controlled Rostech corporation, said in a statement Thursday that Moscow would be willing to sell its Su-35 fighter jets to Turkey if Ankara "expresses interest."

President Donald Trump's administration announced on Wednesday that Turkey was being kicked out of the F-35 program because it was buying the Russian S-400 air defense systems.

The U.S. said that the Russian system would compromise the American fighter jet program.

More than 2K additional troops deploying to southern US border

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 2,000 additional troops will deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border to assist Customs and Border Protection personnel with the ongoing immigration crisis, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

Acting Secretary of Defense Richard Spencer on Tuesday approved a request for assistance by the Department of Homeland Security that funds up to 1,000 Texas National Guard members

to assist along the southern border as well as an additional 1,100 active-duty troops in the coming weeks.

The guard deployment is approved through Sept. 30 and will fall under the command of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

There are now 2,500 active-duty personnel and 2,000 National Guard members supporting Customs and Border Protection operations along the border, according to the Pentagon.

The active-duty personnel are being called in to backfill the

CBP's Operation Guardian Support mission because of a short-fall in National Guard volunteers, according to the statement.

Troops will provide aerial surveillance and operational, logistical and administrative support.

Of the 1,000 Texas National Guard troops, approximately 750 will provide supplemental support to Customs and Border Protection at their temporary adult migrant holding facilities in Donna and Tornillo, Texas, according to the Pentagon.

They will assist DHS law en-

forcement with operational, logistical and administrative support. DHS law enforcement will supervise the migrants, according to the statement.

A new 2,500-bed facility for adult migrants is being built in Tornillo, The Washington Post reported last week, and Vice President Mike Pence visited a new facility in Donna on July 12.

It was not clear Wednesday whether those are the facilities where troops will be deployed.

Approximately 250 Texas National Guard members will also

provide enforcement at designated ports of entry and airports in Texas for border security and to improve the flow of commercial traffic, according to the statement.

Whether Texas guard members are armed and the rules for the use of force that they would follow will be based on their missions, with Abbott making the decision in consultation with CBP, according to the Pentagon.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com

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WAR ON TERRORISM

'We realized only two of us were not shot or dying'

Airman receiving Silver Star for heroism in fight in Afghanistan

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — It was 15 minutes from the first gunshot to the arrival of air support.

In that time, as enemy machine-gun fire sprayed bullets from 50 meters away, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Perolio returned fire, tended to three wounded soldiers, found a route to safety and called in air and ground support.

"He got me out of quite possibly the worst situation I've been in in my entire life," said Army Capt. William Clark, who was wounded in the ambush.

Perolio's actions on Jan. 11, 2018, in eastern Afghanistan saved the lives of his comrades and showcased "a devotion to duty" that earned him a Silver Star, which he was scheduled to receive Thursday in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

"Once it happened and once we figured out what was going on, we realized only two of us were not shot or dying," Perolio, 30, said Wednesday during a phone interview from the Texas base.

"I don't know how but I was not wounded at all. There were bullet holes in my seats and around me but somehow, somehow myself and one of the other Green Berets did not get shot."

Perolio was a member of the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron at Joint Base Lewis-McChord,



Perolio is shown on deployment to Afghanistan in 2018.

Wash., and served as a special forces joint terminal attack controller in Afghanistan from September 2017 to March 2018.

In that position, he worked with Army Special Forces to synchronize air power with ground assets.

Operating out of a remote, former compound of Islamic State, the unit partnered with the Afghan commandos on a major offensive operation targeting ISIS in the Mohmand Valley in the Achin district of Nangarhar province.

"We had a very complex problem to solve," Perolio said of their mission to clear ISIS fighters from the region.

The conditions were austere, and troops often spent three to four days traveling, sleeping on the ground to work with local militias so they could empower locals to keep enemy combatants out and allow civilians to return, Perolio said.

On the day of the attack, Perolio was part of a five-man team led by Clark that traveled out to meet a

militia leader. Upon leaving what they felt was a successful meeting, the force was ambushed.

Heavy machine-gun fire exploded from the militia compound. The servicemen were traveling in an unarmored all-terrain vehicle and Clark and two other team members were wounded.

Faced with fire from the machine-gun position 50 meters away, Perolio immediately took charge, according to his Silver Star citation, rendering aid, arming his wounded comrades and establishing fields of fire while attempting to identify a position of cover or a route to maneuver the force to safety.

As he treated the wounded troops, Perolio realized Clark needed to get to the field surgeon immediately. He exposed himself to gunfire to find the safest route out of the situation — all while returning fire and relaying the situation through two radios, one for air support and another for ground support.

Perolio then used the still-functional



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Perolio will receive the Silver Star on Thursday at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas for actions in Afghanistan in January 2018.

vehicle to get the team to safety while he walked alongside it. Serving as the acting commander, he then directed a series of airstrikes killing 12 enemy combatants and destroying the machine gun's location.

That was done with no further injury to friendly forces or collateral damage to nearby civilians.

As an Air Force addition to the 12-man Army Special Forces detachment, Perolio said it can be difficult to come into that kind of tight-knit unit without feeling like the odd man out. The challenges of that deployment — setting up the outpost, preparing food and cramming together in a small vehicle for days at a time — it brought them all together.

"You build those relationships and those are basically brothers to me from here on out," Perolio said.

He is now stationed as an instructor for the Special Warfare Assessment and Selection course assigned to the 350th Special Warfare Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

In addition to Clark, who traveled from Colorado to witness Perolio's award ceremony, the airman will be joined Thursday by two other members of that deployment, most of his family and his wife, Brooke, who is expecting their first child in December.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Airman awarded 2 Bronze Stars; saved 3 Afghan soldiers

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A reservist airman has been awarded two Bronze Star medals, including one with valor for risking his life to save three Afghan soldiers during a deployment.

Tech. Sgt. Nick Torres, a 308th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, aided the soldiers on March 30, 2018, during a mission in southern Kandahar province, an Air Force statement said.

Torres was initially dispatched to the scene to help one wounded soldier. He stopped the soldier's arterial bleeding, then administered blood and medication before the patient was evacuated.

Shortly afterward, Torres' team came under enemy fire.

"We all hit the deck," Torres said, according to the statement. "I remember seeing the poppies

getting hit as we moved through fields of them, which were in full bloom and around three feet high. Then I heard we had another casualty."

The second injured soldier was shot multiple times and had a punctured lung. While returning fire, Torres inserted a hollow needle through the soldier's chest to allow trapped air to escape.

Torres then got word that a third servicemember had been shot. He and two Army Rangers "disregarded their own safety to reach the soldier," who Torres saved by applying a tourniquet on one of his legs and providing blood, the statement said.

Kandahar province, the Taliban's heartland and home to a sprawling U.S. airbase, has seen some of the bloodiest fighting of the war.

The team Torres was with killed 39 enemy combatants and detained nine, the Air Force said. Afghan special operations had targeted Taliban training centers in the area, according to a Pajhwok Afghan News report at the time.

More information on the operation was not immediately

available from the Air Force on Thursday.

On Sunday, Air Force Space Command and Joint Forces Space Component commander Gen. John Raymond thanked Torres while presenting him with the two Bronze Stars at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

"One of the Air Force's core values is service before self, and I can't think of another career field where that core value is front and center as it is with (pararescuemen)," he said, according to the statement.

Torres' second Bronze Star was awarded for his combat medical work while deployed to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016.

"Nick is one of the sharpest and most proficient medical operators in our career field," said Chief

Master Sgt. Michael Ziegler, 308th Rescue Squadron's chief enlisted manager.

The squadron is part of the 920th Rescue Wing, which specializes in combat search and rescue around the world and is the most combat deployed wing in the Air Force Reserve.

"This whole experience has been very humbling," Torres said at the ceremony.

"These types of things don't happen in a vacuum. I am thankful for the training I have had from my unit, supervisors and peers. It's such a huge group effort to make this happen and I am grateful that I was able to make a difference."

welldman.phillip@stripes.com
Twitter: @ppwelldman



Torres

MILITARY

Outbreak of parasitic disease investigated

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Military personnel based in Central America are investigating an outbreak of a parasitic disease that has long plagued U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Joint Task Force-Bravo's medical unit, based at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, recently conducted a medical field investigation into the outbreak of leishmaniasis in a nearby mountain community, the Army said Monday in a news release.

The parasite, called leishmania, is carried and transmitted by numerous species of sand fly, a blood-sucking pest found around the globe.

The investigation's goal is to determine how and where the disease is spreading and then develop recommendations for stopping its sweep.

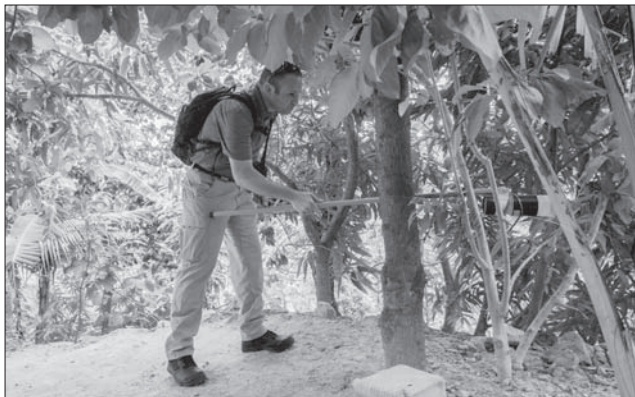
"Our job is to find out how local folks are contracting leishmaniasis," U.S. Army Maj. Jorge Chavez, a public health nurse with JTF-Bravo, said in the news release. "How it is affecting them, how they are managing it locally through the Ministry of Health, how they are treating it, and whether or not there is a pervasive environmental threat to U.S. forces in the area."

Certain varieties of the disease can be fatal, he said.

"Leishmaniasis is one of the diseases of military interest and there are several variations of it," Chavez said. "It can be debilitating; it can also have long-term effects."

The parasite is spread by the bite of the female sand fly. They thrive in tropical and subtropical zones, as well as southern Europe. In the past decade, some cases have been reported in south Texas, likely from northward migration of tropical insects due to global climate change.

The Armed Forces Pest Management Board said in a 2015 report that disease, annoyance and distraction caused by the bites of sand flies can interfere with military operations.



ERIC SUMMERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Army Capt. Patrick McClellan, an entomologist with Joint Task Force-Bravo, vacuums insects during a leishmaniasis investigation in Honduras on July 9. The parasitic disease is carried by sand flies.



FRANK COLLINS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Numerous species of the sand fly carry the disease that has plagued U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

"Indeed, sand flies historically have had, and continue to have, an impact on military and disaster

relief operations and refugee health support operations, underscoring the enduring require-

ment for sand fly surveillance and control," the report said.

U.S. soldiers deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom have been routinely exposed to sand flies, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The incubation period for the leishmania parasite can be long — up to many months — so an infected servicemember may be back home before experiencing symptoms, the most visible being large skin ulcers.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of the disease around the world, as its many nicknames attest: oriental sore, tropical sore, Aleppo boil, Delhi boil and desert boil.

Among the most serious variant is visceral leishmaniasis, a chronic systemic disease with symptoms of fever, progressive spleen and/or liver enlargement, weight loss, low red and white

blood cell count and, if left untreated, possibly death.

Military personnel with potential cases of leishmaniasis have been referred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington since 1978, according to the CDC.

Walter Reed identified 12 cases of leishmaniasis in troops deployed for Operations Desert Storm and Shield during 1990-91, the CDC said.

From 2001 through 2016, 2,040 active-duty and Reserve servicemembers were diagnosed with leishmaniasis, according to a 2017 report by the Defense Health Agency. Almost 90% of the cases were associated with the deployments to the Middle East, primarily in Iraq.

The report concludes, however, that the actual number of servicemembers affected was likely much higher because milder cases typically go unreported or the diagnoses were made outside the Military Health System.

There is also often significant lag time between manifestation of leishmaniasis and its clinical diagnosis, a delay "ranging from weeks to months and sometimes more than a year," the report said.

The Defense Department recommends that servicemembers at risk of being bitten by sand flies employ insecticide-treated uniforms and bed nets and apply insect repellent containing DEET.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson

Okinawa again sues to stop Futenma relocation project

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The governor of Okinawa filed yet another legal challenge Wednesday to the ongoing construction in Henoko of an airfield to replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Gov. Denny Tamaki, who opposes the plan, filed suit at the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court against Keiichi Ishii, the Japanese minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism, seeking to void Ishii's decision in October to resume construction at Henoko.

MCAS Futenma is in a densely packed urban area in central

Okinawa, which has given rise to safety concerns. The plan is to close Futenma and relocate Marine air operations to Camp Schwab in a less-populated coastal area to the north. A runway is being built from reclaimed seabed in Oura Bay at Henoko to facilitate the move.

In August, Okinawa prefecture revoked the runway construction permits. In October, the Okinawa Defense Bureau — a branch of Japan's Ministry of Defense — appealed the revocation to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Ishii overturned Okinawa's revocation of the permits on April 5.

The battle, however, continued.

On April 22, the Okinawa prefectural government filed a complaint with the Central and Local Government Dispute Management Council challenging Ishii's decision.

The council dismissed Okinawa's complaint, Tamaki said last month. But, he said, he planned further legal action against Tokyo to halt the landfill construction.

In addition to the suit filed Wednesday, Okinawa plans another lawsuit "as soon as we are ready to file," a spokesman for the prefectural government told Stars and Stripes. The rules of his job do not allow him to be named.

All told, the dispute over relocating MCAS Futenma has gen-

erated seven lawsuits, including the one filed Wednesday, between Okinawa and Tokyo.

"I will make every effort I can to halt the relocation," Tamaki said in his statement Wednesday. He cited opposition to the plan by two previous governors and a voter referendum.

In February, just over half of Okinawa's 1.15 million registered voters turned out to deliver a resounding "no" vote on the plan to relocate Futenma. Out of the 601,733 voters who turned out, 434,149 — approximately 72% — voted against the reclamation of land in Oura Bay at Camp Schwab for a new military runway.

ichihashi.aya@stripes.com
Twitter: @AyaIchihashi

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MILITARY

DOD reconsiders plan to move intel hub in UK

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A U.S. intelligence gathering hub at RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom, one of several American bases that had been slated for closure, could stay where it is as the Pentagon reconsiders a plan to move the center to a different site.

"The Department of Defense is currently re-assessing the future location of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex and the NATO Intelligence Fusion Center," Lt. Col. Carla M. Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said in a statement.

The center provides intelligence information for the U.S. European and African commands as well as NATO.

The Pentagon stopped short of saying whether it is considering scrapping a plan to build a new center at RAF Croughton, United Kingdom, which would include \$200 million in upgrades, and keep the intelligence activities at Molesworth.

But the Senate's 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which still requires House approval, calls for funds to build an "intelligence fusion center" and "battlefield information collection and exploitation system center" at Molesworth.

The Senate NDAA did not specify how canceling the move would affect the \$200 million slated for the Croughton project.

The change is the latest twist in a plan that has been a source of controversy for nearly five years.

Moving to Croughton was part

of a broader base-consolidation effort in Europe. RAF Molesworth, which was set to shutter around 2023, was one of many facilities the Pentagon had targeted for closure.

But relocating the intelligence center was met with fierce resistance from Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., who said the military failed to consider more affordable alternatives to RAF Croughton. Nunes also accused the military in Europe of providing faulty information to justify the move.

Nunes' concerns prompted an inspector general investigation that examined whether U.S. European Command failed to sufficiently consider its options. The IG ultimately cleared EUCOM officials of intentionally misleading Congress, but the probe found that the military's financial analysis contained inaccurate information.

The military's joint intelligence center was established in the U.K. in 1991 because there was insufficient space at EUCOM's Stuttgart, Germany, headquarters.

Molesworth was chosen because it had vacant facilities that were ready for use. With the establishment of AFRICOM, however, the mission has grown, leading to concerns that the base's World War II-era buildings are under-



JARAD A. DENTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A U.S. Air Force graphic depicts an airman gathering information using technology. The Pentagon is reconsidering a plan to relocate a U.S. intelligence gathering hub at RAF Molesworth in the U.K.

sized and unequipped to handle expanding operations.

While the Pentagon has said it is reassessing the move from Molesworth to Croughton, it didn't offer details.

"This decision does not change the U.S. commitment to strengthen the NATO alliance, deter aggression from potential adversaries, and to support multinational operations," Gleason said. "We are working closely with the United Kingdom to determine next steps for the future location of the JIAC and NIFC."

But officials in Britain have said for months that they have information indicating Molesworth will stay open.

Last year, the member of parliament for the area said he was "delighted" after British media reported that the U.S. had notified the British Defense Ministry

it wanted to keep the Joint Intelligence Analysis Center at RAF Molesworth.

"The JIAC plays a key role in maintaining the U.K.-U.S. defense relationship, and the combined expertise of our two countries working together helps to ensure European security," lawmaker Shailesh Vara told the Hunt's Post newspaper in November. "I am also very pleased that as a result of this decision by the U.S. government, the economic benefits to the local community will continue."

In February, senior U.K. Defense Ministry official Tobias Ellwood said in a speech to parliament that Molesworth would not be shuttered and that the U.S. would continue to use the site.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

New app helps sailors change duty stations

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

Navy Personnel Command released a new app Wednesday called MyPCS Mobile that gives active-duty sailors the ability to electronically submit travel receipts, complete vouchers and apply for government housing and child care during their moves between duty stations.

The app, which can be used without a Common Access Card after a one-time setup, is available to all sailors by downloading it through the Navy App Locker — www.applocker.navy.mil — or MyNavy Portal — my.navy.mil — according to a statement from Navy Personnel Command.

"Sailors executing active-duty (permanent change of station) orders will immediately realize a better experience with MyPCS Mobile," Rear Adm. Jeff Hughes, commanding officer of Navy Personnel Command, said in a statement Wednesday. "We have heard the sailor and family feedback and are enhancing the PCS move process through greater customer focus, increased flexibility, choice and the use of modern tools."

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Winston Winslett on Okinawa, Japan, has orders to report to Navy Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Ill., in December. He downloaded the app for his family's move back to the United States.

"I think the app will definitely be beneficial," he told Stars and Stripes on Thursday. "I think it eliminates the middle man and allows members to take matters into their own hands."

The reduction of time spent waiting on paperwork and the creation of a streamlined process are things he looked forward to in the app, he said.

"It also kind of centralizes things and keeps us from having to run around to several places for information," Winslett said. "In turn, I think it will take much of the load off of [administrative personnel] and give them more time to provide effective one-on-one customer service."

Within the mobile application, a personalized checklist will be tailored to the sailor's move. Later this month it will have the ability to provide a simplified version of permanent change-of-station orders called "lean orders."

"We are aggressively pursuing modern technology in our tools and striving to provide world class customer service to our sailors and families," Hughes said in his statement. "MyPCS Mobile is the result of a rapid development effort as part of our transition to a modern, commercial-standard integrated pay and personnel system. A modern tool to enhance the PCS experience for sailors and families is one of the first capabilities we wanted to deliver."

Sailors who are not yet up for orders can still download and explore the app's features through an online demonstration.

Other enhancements Navy Personnel Command said it would later include in the app are an entitlement calculator and a function to use the government travel credit card for travel-related expenses.

vazquez.carlos@stripes.com
Twitter: @StripesCarlos

ACCOMPLISH WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

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US-South Korean drills to proceed

Officials: Exercise set despite North's objections

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea will conduct joint military exercises as planned later this year, officials said Thursday, despite warnings by North Korea that the drills may affect the resumption of nuclear talks or prompt more nuclear or missile tests.

Exercises conducted on a regular basis by the allies have long infuriated the North, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

President Donald Trump announced last year that he was "stopping the war games" following his historic first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as diplomacy reversed months of tensions over the North's nuclear program.

The military canceled major drills but replaced them with smaller-scale training conducted with a lower profile. The allies are preparing to hold the next one later this year as planned, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said Thursday, although it did not provide a date.

Then-acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyong-doo agreed in early June to cancel the autumn drills known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian and discussed a new combined command post exercise set for August to replace them, the Pentagon said at the time.

The August drill would be called 19-2 Dong Maeng, which means Alliance in Korean, in line with springtime drills that were renamed 19-1 Dong Maeng.

"We're due to carry out the training in the second half of this year in a bid to verify basic operational capabilities for the transfer of wartime operational control," ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said during a regular press briefing.

She said a detailed schedule would be provided "at an appropriate time."

Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn also was quoted as saying that Seoul and Washington are preparing to hold a joint exercise in the fall, according to South Korean media. He was quoted as saying the drill has been adjusted in cooperation with South Korea to maintain military readiness and support diplomatic efforts aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons.

North Korea's state-run media have continued to criticize the drills despite the reduction in scope. On Tuesday, an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman said the next round of drills could affect the planned resumption of

working-level negotiations agreed upon by Trump and Kim during a surprise meeting last month at the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone.

The ministry also accused the U.S. of renegeing on commitments and hinted it may do the same, referring to Kim's decision to suspend nuclear and long-range missile tests that raised fears of another war in 2016-17.

Officials in Seoul and Washington have said the upcoming exercises would be focused on testing the South's readiness to assume military operational control in wartime, which is currently held by the commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

"Combined Joint Exercises are essential to maintaining the military readiness of U.S. forces in Korea," the defense secretary nominee, Mark Esper, said in written responses to policy questions ahead of his testimony at a confirmation hearing Tuesday before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"They ensure that the U.S. and [South Korean] militaries can respond together to any potential North Korean military threat," he added.

Esper said the modernized exercise program adopted by Shanahan and Jeong is more suitable for the security situation on the divided peninsula because it focuses on military readiness and mission-essential tasks without large-scale exercises conducted in the past.

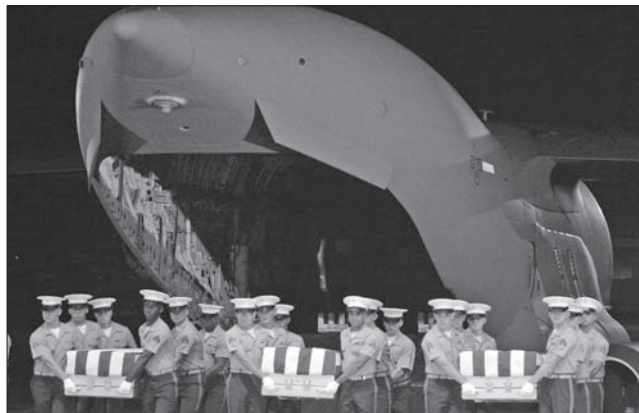
"U.S. Forces Korea continues to implement this program successfully with its [South Korean] military counterparts, preserving military readiness while also sustaining an environment conducive to diplomatic efforts," he wrote.

North Korea observers have noted that the communist state has a track record of saber-rattling in an attempt to gain leverage ahead of planned talks.

"Ending the two allies' joint military exercises permanently has long been a goal of North Korea," said Jeung Yungtae, the director of the Institute of Military Studies at South Korea's Dongyang University. "It is one of North Korea's cards to play as it tries to lure the U.S. back to negotiations."

Duyoon Kim, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, said in a tweet that the North might conduct another short-range missile test as it did earlier this year to "make things difficult, but not enough to kill diplomacy."

gamel.kim@stars.com
Twitter: @kimgame
chang.kyong@stars.com



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps pallbearers transfer the remains of servicemembers killed in the Battle of Tarawa from a C-17 cargo jet to a hangar at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Wednesday.

Remains of servicemembers killed in Battle of Tarawa returned to US

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Cases holding the remains of at least 22 servicemembers killed in the ferocious Battle of Tarawa during World War II were solemnly carried by Marine Corps pallbearers from a C-17 plane into a crowd-filled hangar during a ceremony here Wednesday evening.

"Although more than 75 years have passed, we're here in formation tonight to honor and welcome home our fellow Marines, brothers in arms who fell long ago in battle, enabling the freedom and security we've enjoyed since the end of World War II," Lt. Gen. Lewis Crapotta, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, told those in attendance.

"As part of the 18,000 Marines in the battle, their actions changed the world for the better in the face of tremendous adversity, their honor, courage and commitment on display for the world to see," he said.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency transferred the remains from Tarawa in 22 cases, though remains from additional servicemembers could possibly be commingled with them.

Forensic anthropologists at the agency's lab on the joint base will now begin the painstaking work of identifying them through DNA technology, dental records and other tools.

The DPAA had earlier held a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa as the remains began their journey home.

More than 500 Marines and sailors were missing in action after the battle, and 429 remain unaccounted for to this day, Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, DPAA deputy director, told the audience.

"Tonight, we are receiving



Courtesy of U.S. Navy

A U.S. Marine throws a grenade on Betio Island during World War II's Battle of Tarawa in November 1943.

and honoring at least 22 of those men," he said.

The Battle for Tarawa began on Nov. 20, 1943, with attacks on Betio Island, which was within the Tarawa Atoll, and on Makin Island, more than 100 miles north of the atoll.

While Japanese resistance was light on Makin Island, defenders on Betio were entrenched and determined. The 76-hour battle cost the lives of 1,021 U.S. Marines and sailors, with another 2,000 wounded, the Pentagon said in a news release Wednesday.

"Servicemen killed in action were buried where they fell or placed in large trench burials constructed during and after the battle," the news release said. "These graves were typically marked with improvised markers, such as crosses made from sticks, or an up-turned rifle. Grave sites ranged in size from single isolated burials to large trench burials of more than 100 individuals."

Efforts to exhumate the graves

and identify remains were hampered by incomplete record keeping and by alterations to the cemeteries shortly after the battle, the news release said. In other cases, locations of cemeteries were entirely lost.

Tarawa is now part of the nation of Kiribati.

In March, searchers with the nonprofit organization History Flight discovered a mass grave with remains believed to be from members of the 6th Marine Regiment. The transfer Wednesday represents a portion of remains found at that time.

History Flight has been searching for World War II remains in Tarawa since 2007. In 2015, the group uncovered the bodies of 35 U.S. troops, including Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr., who died leading a doomed assault on a Japanese bunker. Two years later, History Flight searchers found 24 sets of remains.

olson.wyatt@stars.com
Twitter: @WyattOlson

PACIFIC

Faded memories

Retired pilot pays tribute to Air Force service as he turns 100 in Tokyo

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — It's been decades since Dave Fisher soared through the wild blue yonder in Air Force jets, and a century since his birth on July 17, 1919.

The former World War II enlisted soldier who retired as an Air Force major in the 1960s is one of the oldest American military veterans in Japan, if not the oldest.

On a June 25 visit to Yokota — home of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force in western Tokyo — the former aviator marveled at modern military machines and struggled to remember his glory days in the cockpit.

"The only thing I fly now is this," he said, patting his wheelchair as he sat in a parking lot near Yokota's runway watching a 747 cargo plane take off.

Hazy memories bubbled to the surface as he quipped to see C-130J Super Hercules cargo planes and C-12 Huron passenger aircraft parked nearby.

"I was flying out of an Air Force base north of ... north of ... north of ..." he repeated, straining to conjure a lost memory.

The former pilot smiled when he spoke of his Air Force days, but those memories are fading. Some of them, however, have been preserved in emails to his longtime friend, Doug Lerner, 63, a Tokyo-based computer programmer from New York, who recently accompanied Fisher from his nursing home in central Tokyo to Yokota.

In March 2009, Fisher wrote to Lerner about the impact of his war experiences.

"I have had nightmares since WW-II," he wrote. "Actually, my original nightmares were triggered by WW-II and a few Cold War activities."

A dorm mate once told him of an episode where a sleeping Fisher "grabbed my golf bag in the corner and choked it to death," he wrote in the email.

Other messages contain details about Fisher's life in the military.

He wrote that he was at Biggs Air Force Base, near El Paso, Texas, in 1951, flying high-altitude test missions in B-45s.

The North American Aviation B-45 Tornado was one of America's first operational bombers to employ propulsion, the first four-jet aircraft to drop an atom bomb and the first to be refueled in midair, according to the Boeing company's website.

"The purpose of all this activity was to develop an effective ground to air missile defense system selective enough to attack incoming flights in sequence according to their respective times of arrival in the target area," Fisher wrote in 2008.

The pilots involved in the project were shown a short film that compared the bounce of a baseball during a game to radar signals interacting with aircraft, he wrote.



Courtesy of Doug Lerner

Air Force veteran Dave Fisher, seated, celebrates his 100th birthday in Tokyo on Monday with friends and relatives.

While stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., between 1957 and 1960, Fisher studied at Florida State University, graduating with a social science degree, he wrote.

Fisher also wrote about his long-ago efforts to raise quail at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., as quarry for the local rod and gun club.

Pinning down details

Fisher appears to have served during World War II and the Korean War, with duty stations in Europe and the Far East, but the lack of official records makes it tough to pin down many details.

A record in the National Archives states that Fisher was born in Oklahoma and living in Kansas when he enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers in 1940. Fisher's friends helped him request a copy of his military records from the government, but it hasn't arrived.

His Air Force retiree ID card, issued in December 1964, lists his rank as major and birthdate as July 17, 1919.

Old photographs, kept by his great-niece, Debra Pearce, show a young Fisher in dress uniform, posing with a T-6 Texan aircraft and looking like he's about to embark on a mission, clad in a flight suit and goggles.

Another photo of Fisher in uniform includes a note on the back stating that it was taken at his living quarters in Daegu, Korea, in November 1946.

A June 1957 newspaper obituary for his father, Arthur Fisher, states that his son, Maj. David Fisher, was serving with the Air Force in France. An August 1963 obituary for his mother, Rachel Fisher, states that her son was stationed on Okinawa.

Post-military life

Lerner, who met Fisher in an online chat room in the late 1980s, said he didn't know how

old his friend was until he mentioned that his first car was a Ford Model T.

Fisher often mentions a Porsche he once owned back in the States.

"He has regretted leaving it behind every day for 50 years," Lerner said.

After leaving the Air Force in the 1960s, Lerner said, Fisher attended Thunderbird School of Management in Arizona, which became the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University. He moved to Japan shortly after that and became a respected English language teacher.

Fisher never married and has no children, but eight relatives traveled to Tokyo for an early



Courtesy of Debra Pearce

Fisher poses in front of a T-6 Texan in this undated photograph.

100th birthday celebration on Monday that was also attended by dozens of Japanese and expatriate friends, Lerner said.

Before moving into a Tokyo nursing home in September, Fisher shared a home for four decades with his partner, retired hotel worker Nobuhito Sato, 65. The couple visited the United States several times over the years, Lerner said.

Fisher has been asking to come to Yokota "every time I've come to see him for the past few years," Lerner said.

"He said he wanted to go to the BX. He loves the Air Force and has good memories of this place.

He said he wanted to live out here rather than in [his home in Tokyo at the time]."

Fisher picked up a Yokota Air Base T-shirt as a souvenir during his recent visit.

"I used to like to fly," he told Maj. Kevin Simonds, 34, a C-12 Huron pilot with the 459th Air-lift Squadron, when the two met near a checkout counter at the exchange.

"It's pretty fun," Simonds replied with a smile before Fisher headed downstairs to eat strawberry ice cream in the food court.

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

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MILITARY

Space: NASA has deep ties to servicemembers, veterans

FROM FRONT PAGE

NASA has long relied on the deep bench of servicemembers and veterans. But less considered are astronauts who have experienced the extreme ends of the humanity spectrum: the life-altering brutality of war, then the peaceful and scientific exploration of space's infinite potential.

Out of 350 astronauts NASA has selected, about 60 current or former NASA astronauts were deployed under combat orders or awarded decorations denoting wartime service, according to an analysis of NASA biographies by The Washington Post.

The vast majority were fighter pilots. A handful were infantry officers and helicopter pilots closer to the fight. At least two received Purple Hearts for combat wounds. Other biographies were unclear about deployments.

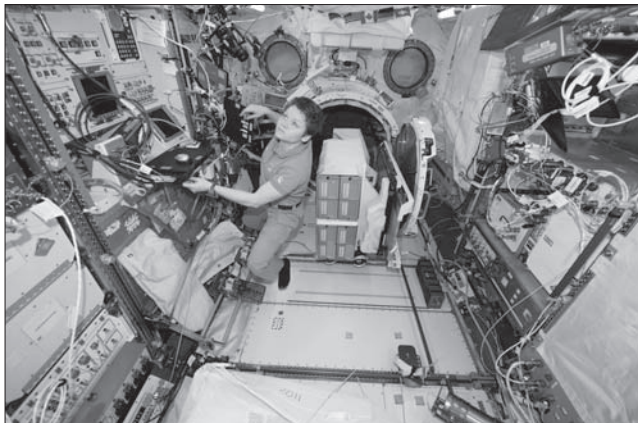
War can leave an indelible mark on its combatants and completely upend conceptions of life, death and mankind's place in the world.

The same thing happens in space, though in a more peaceful way. The overview effect is the phenomenon of the emotional tumult and startling realization that Earth is a fragile spaceship, or a "tiny pea, pretty and blue," as Neil Armstrong said after returning from the moon.

"I never was a big crunchy tree-hugger kind of person," Cassidy said. But both cynicism collided for him when his eyes locked on Afghanistan from behind a telephoto lens in 2013 aboard a six-month mission on the ISS.

Troops on the ground, he said, "are down there and are probably still doing the same things we were doing in 2001, and I got to imagine the overall scheme of things hasn't changed that much," Cassidy said he thought at the time.

"But it made me think: When you look down at Earth from above, you don't see borders, you don't see names of countries ... you just see this big blob of blue and brown and green and white clouds. It made me feel a little bit more introspective about conflict



NASA

than when I was a sledgehammer-wielding 25-year-old."

Combat prepared Army Lt. Col. Anne McClain, who flew missions over Iraq in an OH-58 Kiowa and a fire support helicopter, for the dangerous reality of strapping to a rocket and heading to orbit.

Her wartime assignment proved deadly. She agonized over how leaders could better protect soldiers when she attended funerals for comrades killed in action.

"It's not an experience I would wish on anyone, but it's experience we bring to the table," McClain said in an interview days after she returned June 25 from 204 days in space.

The space program has closely tracked the country's wars, which have churned out some of its most notable astronauts. Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon, shot down two MiGs in the Korean War, where Armstrong also flew combat missions. John Glenn, the first American in orbit, served in World War II and the Korean War.

Two of the astronauts killed



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Above: Lt. Col. Anne McClain works aboard the International Space Station in January 2019. Left: McClain is seen during a deployment to Iraq.

in the 1986 Challenger explosion, Francis "Dick" Scoobe and Michael J. Smith, were Vietnam veterans.

Another Vietnam veteran, retired Marine Col. Robert Springer, slipped through dense jungle beyond friendly lines to direct helicopter fire and air support on Viet Cong insurgents in 1968 and 1969. He also flew missions in an F-4 Phantom and medevac missions in a Huey helicopter. Sometimes he carried the dead.

Saigon fell, but Vietnam stayed with him. He said combat was a formative laboratory to hone a job executed under extraordinary duress.

"It gave me a different perspective," he said. "I've seen the worst of it from combat, and the best of it, and what we're doing in the space program bringing benefits to mankind."

Space has also given combat veterans a different view of their own war.

For most soldiers, the overhead

view of a war zone is flattened into drone feeds or laminated maps. When McClain flew gun runs to support troops on the ground, she referred to highways and roads renamed to simple English words.

But from the ISS, McClain had a much different view of the area. She could see the damage of powerful floods that swept through Iraq.

"From space, you can see the water coming in. You can see what people are dealing with down there," she said.

The overview effect for McClain was one of desperate urgency to preserve the planet, she said. "I want to shake people's shoulders and say 'No, listen, we are all in this together.'"

Navy Cmdr. G. Reid Wiseman, who flew combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and later served as a flight engineer aboard the ISS, had a similar realization after combing over the borderless globe to find Kandahar.

"It changes you," he said, to see the entire planet. "The Earth is alive and it is powerful. And when it gets tired of us, it will fix that."

War has prepared other astronauts for a grim task.

Col. James Buchli led infantry Marines in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds. He later entered the astronaut program.

After two shuttle missions, Buchli stopped training for a moment to watch the Challenger launch. The space shuttle disintegrated 73 seconds into its flight.

NASA scrambled to figure out how to handle the families of seven crew members who had watched their loved ones die.

He presented an idea to administrators: He knew casualty notification officers helped families of slain Marines navigate anguish that began with a white-gloved knock on the door.

"The families needed to know more than what they saw on TV," Buchli said.

He spent the next year and a half helping those families. Then he went back to space.

Air Force warns against prank event planning to 'storm Area 51'

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Air Force has warned people against participating in an internet joke suggesting a large crowd of people "storm Area 51," the top-secret Cold War test site in the Nevada desert.

A prank event on Facebook that's attracted more than 1 million interested people suggests that a mass of people attempt to run into the mysterious site at 3 a.m. on Sept. 20.

The site is part of the vast Nevada Test and Training Range and has become the center of UFO conspiracy theories.

The Facebook event jokes "they can't stop all of us" and "Let's see them aliens."

Nellis Air Force Base said in a statement that the Air Force is aware of the Facebook posting and says "any attempt to illegally access the area is highly

discouraged."

The Air Force says it does not discuss its security measures and that the test and training range provides "flexible, realistic and multidimensional battlespace" for testing and "advanced training in support of U.S. national interests."

After decades of government officials refusing to acknowledge Area 51, the CIA released declassified documents in 2013 referring to the 8,000-square-mile installation by name and locating it on a map near the dry Groom Lake bed.

The base has been a testing ground for a host of top-secret aircraft, including the U-2 in the 1950s and later the B-2 stealth bomber.

But secrecy surrounding the site has fueled conspiracy theories among UFO enthusiasts and sprouted a small, alien-themed tourist industry in surrounding desert communities.

LAURA RAUCH/AP

A vehicle moves along the Extraterrestrial Highway near Rachel, Nev., the closest town to Area 51. The Air Force is warning people not to take part in a Facebook prank to "storm" the top-secret site.

MIDEAST/WAR

GIs heading to Saudi Arabia, reports say

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Hundreds of U.S. troops are set to deploy to Saudi Arabia amid growing tensions with Iran, U.S. media reports said Thursday.

About 500 servicemembers are expected to be sent to Prince Sultan Air Base in the desert east of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, unnamed Defense Department officials told CNN and The New York Times on Wednesday. Defense officials at U.S. Central Command did not immediately respond to Stars and Stripes inquiries about the deployment.

Preparations were underway at the base for a Patriot missile defense battery, a runway and airfield improvements, officials told CNN, which was the first to report the deployment.

Security assessments indicate

Iranian missiles would have a hard time striking the remote base, CNN said.

The Pentagon had previously announced plans to deploy some 2,000 troops to the Middle East following what U.S. officials described as an increased threat from Tehran or its proxies. The military had not detailed locations where troops would be sent, but the Saudi base is one of them, CNN said, citing officials who said further details would be announced next week.

The troop deployments were first announced in the weeks after the White House abruptly said in May it was sending the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, along with a B-52 bomber task force, to the region to protect U.S. forces from unspecified Iranian threats.

Since May, six oil tankers have been damaged in attacks in the

Gulf of Oman that the U.S. has blamed on Iran. Tehran has denied any involvement.

Last week, a British warship in the Persian Gulf prevented three Iranian patrol boats from stopping a British merchant ship as it was entering the Strait of Hormuz, a major thoroughfare for the world's oil shipments, which Iran has threatened to block.

In Iraq, rocket attacks have been reported in recent months in the area of Baghdad surrounding the U.S. Embassy and at bases that house U.S. and other international military trainers. Some officials suspect Iran-backed militias operating in the country are behind the attacks.

The Trump administration has been ratcheting up pressure on Iran through increased sanctions since withdrawing last year from a 2015 international agreement restricting Iran's nuclear pro-

gram. Tehran, which has protested the pressure campaign, has said it would increase its uranium enrichment beyond levels allowed under the nuclear accord.

Tensions escalated further in June after Iran shot down a U.S. drone. President Donald Trump approved retaliatory military strikes but halted them minutes before they were launched.

Both Washington and Tehran have said they don't want war, but European leaders and others fear that the escalations could tip into a conflict if not checked.

The Pentagon had announced plans in May to extend the deployment of some 600 troops from a Patriot missile battalion already deployed to the Middle East and deploy an additional 900 servicemembers, including Patriot missile operators, to bolster security for U.S. troops in the region.

The following month, U.S. Cen-

tral Command chief Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie requested another 1,000 troops, the Pentagon said. That deployment included an Air Force fighter squadron, an engineering element and manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets.

The deployment to the kingdom comes amid criticism of the U.S. government's support for a Saudi-led coalition waging a war against Houthi rebels in Yemen. Thousands of civilians have been killed in errant airstrikes, many involving U.S.-made munitions.

The Trump administration has also faced backlash over its response to the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, in which high-ranking Saudi officials have been implicated.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

Tanker: US official had offered suspicions Iran seized MT Riah

FROM FRONT PAGE

Crude prices, which have been falling since last week, ticked higher almost immediately after reports of the incident.

The seizure of the ship does not immediately appear to directly target any particular country and shows the Revolutionary Guard cracking down on illegal smuggling of Iranian oil.

If the MT Riah was indeed the ship seized, the move directly singles out UAE-bound and based vessels. The 190-foot Riah typically made trips from Dubai and Sharjah on the UAE's west coast before going through the strait and heading to Fujairah on the UAE's east coast.

The UAE has been calling for a deescalation of tensions between the U.S. and Iran in past weeks, but has also lobbied for tougher U.S. policies on Iran and supports the maximum pressure campaign of sanctions imposed by the Trump administration since the U.S. unilaterally pulled out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

The ship's seizure comes after a tense but brief standoff last week between the British navy and Iran's Revolutionary Guard in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all crude oil passes. The British government said a navy frigate had to warn away the paramilitary vessels from disrupting the passage of a British oil tanker through the strait.

Also comes after British marines helped seize an Iranian oil tanker off Gibraltar, a British overseas territory at the southern tip of Spain. Britain has since said it would facilitate the release of the tanker if Iran can provide guarantees the vessel would not be used for military purposes or sanctions on shipments to Syria.

Iran has recently increased uranium production and enrichment over the limits of its 2015 nuclear deal, trying to put more pressure on Europe to offer it better terms and allow it to sell its crude oil abroad.

The U.S. has sent thousands of additional troops, B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets to the region amid the heightened tensions. Iran also shot down a U.S. surveillance drone, raising fears of a wider conflict.

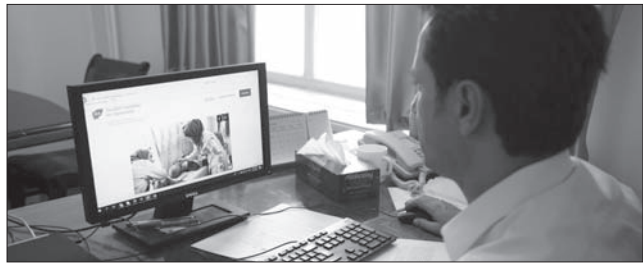
In May, two Emirati oil tankers were among four tankers attacked in acts of sabotage that the U.S. has blamed on Iran. The UAE has stopped short of blaming any country for the attacks off its coast of Fujairah and maintains that diplomacy is the way forward.

Two other oil vessels were attacked last month. Iran denies involvement in any of the vessel attacks.

A U.S. defense official told The Associated Press this week that America had suspicions that Iran had seized the MT Riah when its tracker was turned off in the Strait of Hormuz. An Emirati official had told the AP the small oil tanker made no distress call before switching off its tracker.

Iran's acknowledgement that a vessel has been seized by the Revolutionary Guard appears to contradict statements by Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Wednesday saying Iran had seized a foreign oil tanker with a malfunction.

The ship's registered owner, Dubai-based Prime Tankers LLC, told the AP earlier this week it had sold the ship to another company called MQJ Al-Bahar. A man who answered a telephone number registered to the firm told the AP it didn't own any ships.



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Threats by the Taliban forced the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan to close 42 of its health facilities in Afghanistan. Ahmad Khalid Fahim, above, is the nonprofit group's program director.

Taliban plans to talk to Swedish NGO after Afghan clinic closures

By AMIR SHAH
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban said they would hold talks Thursday with representatives of a Swedish nonprofit group after threats by the insurgents forced the organization to close 42 clinics it runs in eastern Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a Taliban fighter in southern Kandahar province attacked police headquarters with a car bomb, killing himself and at least nine others and wounding dozens more, officials said.

The closures of the facilities run by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan in Taliban-controlled areas of Maidan Wardak province are expected to affect almost 6,000 people. The clinics in government-controlled parts of the province remain open.

The closures came after Afghan forces last week raided a clinic run by the nongovernmental organization in pursuit of the Taliban. Two staffers died in the

raid.

On Wednesday, Sonny Mansson, the group's director, told The Associated Press that the Taliban threatened the NGO's staff by saying that if they do not close the facilities, "it would have consequences for themselves and their families."

The talks are meant "to resolve the situation" in Maidan Wardak province, said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, though he offered no details on where and how the meeting would take place.

Also on Thursday, the Swedish committee was organizing a meeting of aid groups working in the country to take a united stand and demand protection of civilians from all sides in Afghanistan's nearly 18-year war.

"We would like to send a clear message that protection of civilians and aid workers should be prioritized by all parties to the conflict," the NGO said in a statement, expressing concerns over

violations in international humanitarian law and the "increase in attacks on citizens, health care and education facilities."

Also on Thursday, in southern Kandahar province, a suicide attacker detonated his explosives-laden vehicle outside provincial police headquarters, said provincial council member Mohammad Yousuf Yunosi. Immediately after the explosion several other attackers opened fire with small arms on security guards.

Jamal Nasar Barikzai, spokesman for the chief of police, said at least 10 people were killed and at least 10 were wounded in the attack. He said two police were among the dead and four insurgents were also killed.

Witnesses described a powerful explosion that shook the neighborhood, shattering windows in nearby buildings.

Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, spokesman for the Taliban, later claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement.

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MILITARY

Officials warn of privacy risks with FaceApp

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. military officials in Europe have issued a “cyber alert” warning that a photo filter application owned by a Russia-based company could pose a security risk.

“A popular Facebook app that takes a current photo and shows you what you might look like in the future has raised concerns regarding privacy issues with the governments of several countries, including the United States,” U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz said in an alert to personnel Thursday.

FaceApp, which can transform the faces of younger users into senior citizens, has gone viral in recent days. The program was among the most downloaded apps this week as images of celebrities and ordinary citizens spread across social media.

Some lawmakers are worried the product could pose privacy and national security risks despite FaceApp’s denials of data harvesting.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called on the FBI and the Federal Trade Commission to launch an investigation into the app, saying the program accesses sensitive personal information.

“It would be deeply troubling if the sensitive personal information of U.S. citizens was provided to a hostile foreign power actively engaged in cyber hostilities against the United States,” Schumer said in a letter to the FBI and the Federal Trade Commission.

Schumer called on federal au-



GEORFFREY A. FOWLER/The Washington Post

FaceApp, which uses artificial intelligence to “age” people, has gone viral, prompting concern in Congress and a “cyber alert” from U.S. military officials. Washington Post Tech columnist Geoffrey A. Fowler tried it himself.

thorities to ensure safeguards are in place to protect the privacy of Americans using the application, including government personnel and servicemembers.

For the military in Europe, Russian attempts to mine smartphones and social media accounts for information has been a long-standing concern. In 2017, some troops assigned to NATO battlegroups deployed to deter potential Russian aggression in the Baltics and Poland had their phones and

social media accounts hacked while operating near the Russian military exclave of Kaliningrad.

In its cyber warning, the Army garrison said that installing the app allows FaceApp “access and ability to store information about its users, such as the images of their face, location, IP address, and where exactly a user clicks inside the app.”

“This data could then be sold to other companies,” the warning stated. “In addition, cyber ex-

perts warn that relatively small companies like the one behind FaceApp are vulnerable to hacking by criminals and foreign governments,” the warning stated.

U.S. Army Europe said soldiers must take personal responsibility to ensure military readiness isn’t affected by social media activity.

“U.S. Army Europe encourages all service members, civilians and their families to be conscious of their social media security settings and ensure they fully un-

derstand the terms of service for any application they download to their personal or military mobile devices,” Col. Joe Scrocca, USAREUR spokesman, said in a statement.

Schumer’s letter said FaceApp’s risks remain unclear.

“FaceApp’s location in Russia raises questions regarding how and when the company provides access to the data of U.S. citizens to third parties, including potentially foreign governments,” Schumer wrote.

On Wednesday, the Democratic National Committee also warned its members to refrain from using the app because of concerns that the app could access users’ photos, which could in turn be used for nefarious purposes.

FaceApp has denied it harvests user photos, saying it only uploads a photo selected by a user for editing.

“FaceApp performs most of the photo processing in the cloud. We only upload a photo selected by a user for editing. We never transfer any other images from the phone to the cloud,” the company said in a statement.

Still, questions about FaceApp come amid rising concerns over how “deep fake” imagery could be used to spread misinformation.

In the age of facial recognition technology as both a surveillance and security use, it is essential that users have the information they need to ensure their personal and biometric data remains secure,” Schumer wrote.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

Senate panel approves Esper to lead DOD

Committee also OKs Milley to be next chairman of the Joint Chiefs

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army Secretary Mark Esper’s nomination to be the next defense secretary was approved Tuesday in a voice vote by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Esper’s nomination now moves to a full Senate vote, which Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., the committee chairman, has said could happen as early as Monday.

Army Gen. Mark Milley was also approved by the committee to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with 1,231 other pending military nominations, according to a Senate Armed Services Committee statement.

The Pentagon has been without a confirmed defense secretary since Jim Mattis left Dec. 31. Since then, there have been three acting defense secretaries, including Esper, in seven months. Richard Spencer, the Navy secretary, is the acting defense secretary while Esper goes through the Senate confirmation process.

During Esper’s confirmation hearing Tuesday, he was confronted with questions by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., about his previous position as a lobbyist at



Esper

Raytheon and the potential conflicts of interests that he might face with his former employer — the third-largest defense contractor in the country.

Warren pushed Esper to agree to extending his recusal commitment beyond November, which would prohibit him from participating in any decisions related to Raytheon until he is no longer defense secretary.

Esper responded that the Pentagon’s ethics personnel recommended that he not extend his commitment. Warren also wanted him to commit to never seek a waiver to participate in matters regarding Raytheon’s financial interest.

“No senator I won’t,” Esper said Tuesday about to the waivers commitment. “Because I’m going to continue to abide by the rules and regulations and I’m going to continue to consult closely with my ethics personnel to ensure that we stay on the ethical midfield.”

Because Esper would not make the commitments that she requested, Warren said he should not be confirmed as defense secretary. On Thursday, Warren and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., both presiden-

tial candidates, voted “no” on Esper’s nomination, according to a committee aide.

Esper’s hearing came one day after his nomination by President Donald Trump. The Senate Armed Services Committee’s leadership had scheduled the hearing a week before, saying they were suspending the traditional seven-day waiting period between receiving a nomination and voting on the nominee due to the urgency to fill the Pentagon’s top position.

If Esper is confirmed, the next person to be nominated will be David Norquist as the deputy defense secretary, a job for which he has been performing the duties since Patrick Shanahan left that position to be the acting defense secretary in January. Norquist is also the Pentagon’s chief financial officer, and Trump announced June 21 his intent to nominate him for deputy defense secretary. The Senate Armed Services Committee has already scheduled his confirmation hearing for July 24.

If Norquist is officially nominated, he would step back into his role as comptroller full-time and Spencer would then step in to perform the duties of deputy defense secretary, according to Eric Chewning, the acting defense secretary’s chief of staff.

“So think of Secretary Spencer as our swing player as we work through the role,” he said.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com

Marines: Hunter can’t use emblem

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Embattled Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter was issued a cease-and-desist letter from the Marine Corps for using its official emblem and slogan in a campaign mailer that targeted three Muslim officials.

The Marine Corps demanded that Hunter, R-Calif., stop using its Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem and the motto “No better friend, no worse enemy” in campaign advertisements after criticism of the Islamophobic mailer peaked this week, according to NBC News.

The ad’s envelope included photographs of Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., who has become the focus of xenophobic outcry on the right; Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich.; and Ammar Campa-Najjar, a Democrat of Palestinian and Mexican descent who is challenging Hunter, a Marine Corps veteran, for his seat — accusing them of anti-Semitism and “family-terrorist ties.”

Capt. Joseph Butterfield, a Marine Corps spokesman, said in a statement, “The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor and No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy phrase are trademarks of the Marine Corps protected by Federal law.”

The statement noted the portion of federal law that states that the symbols should not be used for political activities.

NATION

Crowds chant 'Send her back' at Trump rally

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Going after four Democratic congresswomen one by one, a combative President Donald Trump turned his campaign rally into an extended dissection of the liberal views of the women of color, deciding them for what he painted as extreme positions and suggesting they just get out.

"Tonight I have a suggestion for the hate-filled extremists who are constantly trying to tear our country down," Trump told the crowd in North Carolina, a swing state he won in 2016 and wants to claim again in 2020. "They never have anything good to say. That's why I say, 'Hey if you don't like it, let 'em leave, let 'em leave.'"

Eager to rile up his base with the some of the same kind of rhetoric he targeted at minorities and women in 2016, Trump

declared Wednesday night, "I think in some cases they hate our country."

Trump's jabs were aimed at the self-described "squad" of four freshmen Democrats who have garnered attention since their arrival in January for their outspoken liberal views and distaste for Trump: Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York; Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota; Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts; and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan. All were born in the U.S. except for Omar, who came to the U.S. as a child after fleeing Somalia with her family.

Taking the legislators on one at a time, Trump ticked through a laundry list of what he deemed offensive comments by each woman, mangling and misconstruing many facts along the way.

Omar came under the harshest criticism as Trump played to voters' grievances, drawing a chant



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Donald Trump arrives to speak at a campaign rally Wednesday at Williams Arena in Greenville, N.C., where he condemned four female liberal members of Congress.



A baby is held aloft in the audience at the Trump campaign rally in Greenville.

from the crowd of "Send her back! Send her back!"

She responded Wednesday night with a series of tweets, in-

cluding one quoting Maya Angelou's defiant poem, "Still I Rise," with the words "You may shoot me with your words ... But still, like air, I'll rise."

Trump set off a firestorm Sunday when he tweeted that the four should "go back" to their home countries — though three were born in the United States. Trump has accused them of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgusting things ever said by a politician."

He expanded on his criticisms in Greenville.

As for Ocasio-Cortez, Trump fumbled over her name and declared, "I don't have time to go with three different names." He then referred to her as just "Cortez" as he challenged her com-

plaints about dire conditions at migrant detention centers at the border.

In a lighter moment, Trump wondered if Pressley was related to Elvis Presley, then pivoted to more serious points, claiming she thought people of color should "think the same."

As for Omar, Trump unfurled a whole list of complaints, including a false accusation that she voiced pride in al-Qaida.

Before he left Washington, Trump said he has no regrets about his ongoing spat with the four. Trump told reporters he thinks he's "winning the political argument" and "winning it by a lot."

House blocks maverick Dem's Trump impeachment effort

By ALAN FRAM
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House easily killed a maverick Democrat's effort Wednesday to impeach President Donald Trump for his recent racial insults against lawmakers of color, a vote that provided an early snapshot of just how divided Democrats are over ousting him as the 2020 presidential and congressional campaigns rev up.

Democrats leaned against the resolution by Texas Rep. Al Green by 137-95. That showed that so far, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has successfully prevented a Democratic stampede toward impeachment before additional evidence is developed that

could win over a public that's so far skeptical about ousting Trump.

Even so, the roll call underscored that the number of liberal Democrats open to impeachment remains substantial and may be growing. About two dozen more conversions would split the party's 235-member caucus in half over an issue that could potentially dominate next year's elections. Until now, just over 80 Democrats had publicly said they were open to starting an inquiry over removing Trump.

Democrats voting in favor of the impeachment resolution included some of the party's most outspoken freshmen, like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York, but were mostly veteran liberals, including leaders of House Democrats' black, Hispanic and progressive caucuses.

With party leaders looking to give the effort as little oxygen as possible, there was no debate.

As some Democrats feared, the measure's lopsided 332-95 defeat — the House's first vote on removing Trump since Democrats took control of the chamber this year — opened the door for him to claim vindication.

"You see the overwhelming vote against impeachment and that's the end of it," Trump told reporters as he arrived in North Carolina for a campaign rally. He called the effort the "most ridiculous project I've ever been involved in."

Democrats rejected Trump's claim that the vote showed he'd been absolved of anything.

"It's not vindication," said Rep. Donna

Shalala, D-Fla. "It's that we believe in an orderly process. We're putting our faith in the Judiciary Committee and the hearing they're going to hold."

"It's not ideal for a lot of people to have to take that vote right now," one of them, Rep. Katie Hill, D-Calif., said of impeachment. She said "if and when" the House votes on impeachment, it should happen when "we can make sure our constituents understand and can get behind" the move.

Recent polling has shown solid majorities of the public oppose impeachment. Even if the Democratic-run House would vote to impeach Trump, the equivalent of filing formal charges, a trial by the Republican-led Senate would all but certainly acquit him, keeping him in office.

New policy on asylum may further strain immigrant detention facilities

By ELLIOTT SPAGAT
AND NOMAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A new policy to deny asylum to anyone who shows up on the Mexican border after traveling through another country threatens to exacerbate overcrowding at severely strained U.S. immigration detention centers and makeshift holding areas.

Photos and video of Vice President Mike Pence's visit July 12 to McAllen, Texas, showing men crammed behind chain-link fences offered the latest glimpse into

squalid conditions at Customs and Border Protection facilities. Women are being held in smaller tents at the station.

A sharp drop in illegal border crossings, coming during a seasonal decline as summer heat sets in, has eased pressure temporarily. The Border Patrol has fewer than 10,000 people in custody, down from 19,000 in May, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to share the figures publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The dramatic policy change

took effect Tuesday, denying asylum to anyone who must pass through Mexico to reach the U.S. by land. It will have the biggest impact on Guatemalans and Hondurans, who account for most Border Patrol arrests and tend to travel in families.

If it survives legal challenges, the policy would affect people from any country traveling through Mexico unless they sought asylum in at least one other country and were denied. There are exceptions for victims of "a severe form" of human traf-

ficking, as well as other forms of humanitarian protection that are similar to asylum but have a much higher bar to qualify.

Hours after it went into effect, the policy drew two lawsuits in federal court, one in San Francisco and one in Washington. Both lawsuits ask for an order to immediately halt the policy while it is challenged in court. The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups requested a hearing Thursday in the San Francisco case.

Those who lose asylum bids

would be placed in fast-track deportation proceedings and flown to their home countries. That's where challenges may mount.

It usually takes several days to arrange travel documents and flights for Central Americans, and the only ICE family detention centers are in Texas and Pennsylvania. It is more difficult (and expensive) to arrange travel to faraway countries like Cameroon, whose people have been arriving at the border to seek asylum after flying to Ecuador and traveling through seven other countries.

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NATION

White House, Congress close on budget deal

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday that budget and debt negotiators have reached an agreement on the core elements of a deal to increase the government's borrowing cap and set a \$1.3 trillion overall level for the agency budgets that Congress passes each year.

Speaking on CNBC's "Squawk Box" on Thursday, Mnuchin said negotiations with Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, have settled on a debt limit increase that would cover two years. He said they've agreed on spending levels too, though he did not disclose them.

Still to be resolved are offsetting spending cuts to help finance the deal and other "structural issues," Mnuchin said. The

Trump administration is pressing for up to \$150 billion in such cuts, well above a figure that would be easy to quickly negotiate.

"The good news is we've reached an agreement between the administration, the House and the Senate on top line numbers for both year one and year two," Mnuchin said, speaking from France, where he is attending an economic summit. "We're now discussing offsets as well as certain structural issues, and we've agreed as a part of that deal there would be a long-term two-year debt ceiling increase."

At issue are two separate but pressing items on Washington's must-do agenda: increasing the so-called debt limit to avert a first ever default on U.S. payments and acting to set overall spending limits and prevent crunching automatic spending cuts from hitting the Pentagon and domestic

agencies in January.

Pelosi and Mnuchin spoke by phone again Thursday, Pelosi told reporters.

"Our conversations are continuing. We've been very firm though about a decision. If they want us to have this done by before we leave we have to come to a conclusion pretty soon," Pelosi said.

Reaching an agreement also eliminates the possibility of a repeat government shutdown when the current fiscal year ends Sept. 30. President Donald Trump ended up on the losing end of a record 35-day partial shutdown last December and January.

"Nobody wants a shutdown in any scenario," Mnuchin told the network.

Mnuchin is taking the lead for the Trump administration in negotiations. Conservative forces in the White House and House

Republicans don't like the way the deal is shaping up.

Democrats and Senate Republicans form the core of a powerful coalition favoring a deal. But House conservatives that comprise the core of Trump's base in Congress are wary of the emerging agreement and warn that Trump may reject a deal that doesn't have their support. The alternative is to run the government on auto-pilot, a prospect that alarms the Pentagon and its allies.

The talks have been going for weeks but took on new urgency as deficit estimates worsened, creating an unacceptable risk of default in early to mid-September. Mnuchin clarified that the risk of a debt default in September is relatively low, limited to Treasury's "most conservative scenario."

Nation preps for weekend heat wave

Associated Press

DETROIT — The heat wave that has been roasting much of the U.S. in recent days is just getting warmed up, with temperatures expected to soar to dangerous levels through the weekend.

Communities are preparing by offering buildings as cooling centers and asking residents to check in on relatives and neighbors. Officials also are concerned about smog, which is exacerbated by the heat and makes it more difficult for certain people to breathe, including the very young, the elderly and people with asthma or lung diseases.

More than 100 local heat records are expected to fall Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Most won't be record-daily highs but record-high nighttime lows, and that lack of cooling can be dangerous, meteorologists say. Temperatures in parts of the East won't drop below the mid- to upper-70s or even 80 degrees at night, he said.

The heat wave will likely be "short and searing," said Greg Carbin, forecast branch chief for the weather service's Weather Prediction Center.

A high pressure system stretching from coast-to-coast is keeping the heat turned on. The heat and humidity are made to feel worse by the large amount of moisture in the air coming from the Gulf of Mexico, much of it left over from Hurricane Barry.

The heat index, which is what the temperature feels like, should hit 110 in Washington, D.C., on Saturday and 109 in Chicago and Detroit on Friday, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of Weather Underground. Wednesday marked Washington's seventh straight day with temperatures



SETH WENIG/AP

Russ Wilson cools off by splashing water on his face from a fountain in New York on Wednesday. Many people are seeking relief from a heat wave affecting much of the U.S. and expected to worsen.

of at least 90 degrees, and that streak was expected to last for another five days.

An experimental weather service forecast projected that nearly 100 local records will be broken Thursday and Friday in Texas, Oklahoma, parts of the Midwest and a large swath of the East Coast.

On Saturday, 101 records could fall in an area stretching from Texas to Iowa and east to Maine and Florida, according to projections.

Deloris Knight said she will keep the heat out of her eastside Detroit home by keeping her doors and curtains closed while running the small window air conditioner in her living room.

"We have a couple of big fans. We have ceiling fans," Knight, 63, said Wednesday while enjoying temperatures in the mid-80s from her front porch. "I keep lemonade and gallons of frozen water in the refrigerator. At night, we're in the house."

Even that may not provide enough relief for some, especially for young children, the elderly or people with certain chronic illnesses.

The Environmental Protection Agency's live air quality tracker reported that the air was "unhealthy" Wednesday for sensitive groups in a stretch of the East Coast from Baltimore to Bridgeport, Conn., including Philadelphia and New York City.

Data shows number of US overdose deaths likely fell in last year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. overdose deaths last year likely fell for the first time in nearly three decades, preliminary numbers suggest.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday posted data showing nearly 68,000 drug overdose deaths were reported last year. The number may go up as more investigations are completed, but the agency expects the tally will end up below 69,000.

Overdose deaths had been climbing each year since 1990, topping 70,000 in 2017.

The numbers were celebrated by the U.S. secretary of health and human services.

"Lives are being saved, and we're beginning to win the fight against this crisis," Alex Azar wrote in a tweet.

But the overdose death rate is still about seven times higher than it was a generation ago.

"We're still in a pretty sad situation that we need to address," said Rebecca Haffajee, a University of Michigan researcher.

Researchers do not believe this is the start of a dramatic decline. Data from the first months of this year likely will show that the decrease is not gaining steam, said Farida Ahmad, of the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

The improvement was driven by a drop in deaths from heroin and prescription painkillers. Those falls were offset somewhat by continuing growth in deaths involving a different opioid, fentanyl, as well as other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Overdose deaths often involve more than one drug.

Some states seem to be making dramatic progress, while deaths continue to rise in others. The preliminary CDC data suggested deaths last year were down by as many as 1,000 or more in Ohio

and Pennsylvania — each seeing declines of about 20%. Meanwhile, deaths increased by about 17% in Missouri, which had more than 200 additional deaths.

It can take months for authorities to complete toxicology tests and other elements of a death investigation involving drugs. And some states report faster than others. The CDC is expected to report more complete data later this year.

The current overdose epidemic has killed more people than any other in U.S. history, and it had been on a soaring trajectory. From 2014 to 2017, overdose deaths jumped by 5,000 or more each year.

Experts trace the epidemic's origins to 1995 and the marketing of the prescription painkiller OxyContin. It was meant to be safer and more effective than other prescription opioids, but some patients got hooked and found they could crush the tablets and snort or inject them to get high.

Gradually, many turned to cheaper street drugs such as heroin and fentanyl. In 2015, heroin began causing more deaths than prescription painkillers or other drugs. In 2016, fentanyl and its close cousins became the biggest drug killer, and in 2018 they were involved in about 46% of the reported overdose deaths, according to the preliminary CDC data.

Strategies to reduce drug overdose deaths have included tougher policing, treatment program expansions, policies to limit opioid painkiller prescriptions and wider distribution of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone. Haffajee and other researchers are trying to figure out what measures are most responsible for the slight improvement.

"It's complicated because there are so many policies going on, and as an evaluator it's very hard to separate them out and determine which is working," she said.

WORLD

7,867 police in Philippines punished for drug raids

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of Philippine police officers have received administrative punishments with more than 2,000 dismissed for wrongdoings during raids in which drug suspects were killed under the president's crackdown, officials said Thursday.

Communications Assistant Secretary Marie Rafael Banaag told a news conference that 14,724 police were investigated for their involvement in police drug operations that led to deaths from July 2016 until last April. She said 7,867 of them received administrative punishments for unspecified lapses.

A tally presented by Banaag

showed that 2,367 police officers have been fired and 4,100 suspended while the rest were reprimanded, demoted, had their salaries forfeited or were deprived of certain privileges.

Banaag did not say how many officers have been criminally charged for serious lapses or outright crimes committed while enforcing the crackdown, which was launched by President Rodrigo Duterte as his centerpiece program when he took office in mid-2016.

Philippine police officials say about 6,600 drug suspects have been killed in raids carried out by the police mostly in gunbattles that ensued after the suspects fought back and endangered the lives of law enforcers.

Banaag and other officials re-

ported a lower death toll, more than 5,500, saying authorities were still verifying other drug-related deaths.

Last year, a Philippine court found three police officers guilty of killing a student they alleged was a drug dealer in the first known such conviction under the crackdown.

The court ruled the officers murdered Kian Loyd delos Santos during a raid in Calocan city's slums in the Manila metropolis and rejected the policemen's claim that the 17-year-old fired back while resisting arrest. Delos Santos's family and witnesses testified in official investigations that he was shot in a dark alley near a creek as he pleaded for his life.

Delos Santos' killing and that

of a South Korean who was allegedly strangled to death by an anti-drugs officer in an extortion attempt prompted Duterte to briefly suspend the drug crackdown amid outcries.

"There are certain flaws probably in what happened during operations but these are actually being addressed," Undersecretary Severo Catura, an official dealing with human rights issues, said in the news conference.

"That's why we are saying here that however we're concerned with regard to apprehending criminals, we're also that concerned with regard to ensuring that the rule of law is followed," Catura said.

He added that more than 200 policemen have been killed and 700 others wounded in drug raids

— statistics that Duterte has often cited to counter allegations by human rights activists that police have killed suspects beyond the law because they violently resisted.

Banaag said it was the first time authorities disclosed the full extent of police who have been disciplined for lapses in the anti-drug crackdown.

Former Commission on Human Rights chairwoman Loretta Ann Rosales, however, said the high number of erring enforcers involved in raids where lives were lost in alarming levels should prompt the government to immediately suspend and review the crackdown.

"It's terrible, it's alarming, it's unconscionable," Rosales said.

Louvre takes down Sackler name amid opioid outcry

Associated Press

PARIS — France's Louvre Museum in Paris has become the first major institution to remove the Sackler family name after protests erupted against the family that is blamed for the deadly opioid crisis in the United States.

At the Louvre's Oriental Antiquities gallery, an Associated Press photographer late Wednesday saw tape covering multiple placards bearing the name that has long been associated with arts patronage around the world. A sign listing family members by name had been removed from its place on the wall, with only the holes and outline remaining.

The Sackler family owns Purdue Pharma, which is facing some 2,000 lawsuits in the U.S. over its role in the opioid crisis that has claimed 400,000 lives in two decades.

Institutions that benefited from the family's largesse have been targeted by activists, led by the artist Nan Goldin. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Tate group of galleries in London have said they will no longer accept Sackler money, and the Sackler Trust has frozen new donations.

The Louvre's president, Jean-Luc Martinez, told RTL radio there's a 20-year limit on naming rights and the Sackler donation for the wing was in 1996. He did not explain why it had taken three years to remove the signs.

Goldin and others staged a protest outside the Louvre on July 1, specifically noting that the Louvre rules left the museum under no obligation to continue displaying the Sackler name.


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Garmisch, Germany

WORLD

Deadly fire set at Japanese anime studio

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — A man screaming “You die!” burst into an animation studio in Kyoto, doused it with a flammable liquid and set it on fire Thursday, killing 33 people in an attack that shocked the country and brought an outpouring of grief from anime fans. Thirty-six others were injured, some of them critically, in a blaze that sent people scrambling up the stairs toward the roof in a desperate — and futile — attempt to escape as proved to be Japan’s deadliest fire in nearly two decades. Others emerged bleeding, blackened and barefoot.

The suspect, identified only as a 41-year-old man who did not work for the studio, was injured and taken to a hospital. Police gave no details on the motive, but a witness told Japanese TV that the attacker angrily complained that something of his had been stolen, possibly by the company.

Most of the victims were employees of Kyoto Animation, which does work on movies and TV productions but is best known for its hit stories featuring high school girls. The tales are so popular that fans make pilgrimages to some of the places depicted.

The blaze started in the three-story building in Japan’s ancient capital after the attacker sprayed a liquid accelerant, police and fire officials said.



Kyodo News/AP

Firefighters respond to a fire at Kyoto Animation in Kyoto, Japan, on Thursday that killed at least 20.

“There was an explosion, then I heard people shouting, some asking for help,” a witness told TBS TV. “Black smoke was rising from windows on upper floors. Ten there was a man struggling to crawl out of the window.”

Japanese media reported the fire might have been set near the front door, forcing people to find other ways out.

The building has a spiral

staircase that may have allowed flames and smoke to rise quickly to the top floor, NHK noted. Fire expert Yuji Hasemi at Waseda University told NHK that paper drawings and other documents in the studio also may have contributed to the fire’s rapid spread.

Firefighters found 33 bodies, 20 of them on the third floor and some on the stairs to the roof, where they had apparently col-

lapsed, Kyoto fire official Kazuhiro Hayashi said. Two were found dead on the first floor, 11 others on the second floor, he said.

A witness who saw the attacker being approached by police told Japanese media that the man admitted spreading gasoline and setting the fire with a lighter. She told NHK public television that the man had burns on his arms and legs and complained that

something had been stolen from him. She told Kyodo News that his hair got singed and his legs were exposed because his jeans were burned below the knees.

“He sounded he had a grudge against the society, and he was talking angrily to the policemen, too, though he was struggling with pain,” she told Kyodo News. “He also sounded he had a grudge against Kyoto Animation.”

Survivors said he was screaming “You die!” as he dumped the liquid, according to Japanese media. They said some of the survivors got splashed with the liquid.

Kyoto Animation, better known as KyoAni, was founded in 1981 as an animation and comic book production studio, and its hits include “Lucky Star” of 2008, “K-On!” in 2011 and “Haruhi Suzumiya” in 2009.

The company does not have a major presence outside Japan, though it was hired to do secondary animation work on a 1998 “Pokémon” feature that appeared in U.S. theaters and a “Winnie the Pooh” video.

“My heart is in extreme pain. Why on earth did such violence have to be used?” company president Hideaki Hatta said. Hatta said the company had received anonymous death threats by email in the past, but he did not link them to Thursday’s attack.

Ebola outbreak declared global health emergency

Associated Press

GENEVA — The deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo is now an international health emergency, the World Health Organization announced Wednesday after a case was confirmed in a city of 2 million people.

A WHO expert committee declined on three previous occasions to advise the United Nations health agency to make the declaration for this outbreak, even though other experts say it has long met the required conditions. More than 1,600 people have died since August in the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, which is unfolding in a region described as a war zone.

A declaration of a global health emergency often brings greater international attention and aid, along with concerns that nervous governments might overreact with border closures.

The declaration comes days after a single case was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in northeastern Congo on the Rwandan border that has an international airport. Also, a sick Congolese fish trader traveled to Uganda and back while symptomatic and later died of Ebola.

While the risk of regional spread remains high, the risk outside the region remains low, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said after the announcement in Geneva. The international emergency “should not be used to stigmatize or penalize the very people who are most in need of our help,” he said.

Tedros said the declaration was not made to raise more money even though the WHO estimated “hundreds of millions” of dollars would be needed to stop



JEROME DELAV/AP

Health workers dressed in protective gear begin their shift at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo, where an international health emergency has been declared.

the epidemic.

Dr. Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, said she hoped the emergency designation would prompt a radical reset of Ebola response efforts.

“The reality check is that a year into the epidemic, it’s still not under control, and we are not where we should be,” she said. “We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results.”

Liu said vaccination strategies should be broadened and that more efforts should be made to build trust within communities.

The U.S. Agency for International Development applauded the WHO decision and said USAID officials would “continue to scale up life-saving support” to end the outbreak.

This is the fifth such declaration in history. Previous emergencies were declared for the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people, the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic and polio.

Drug smuggler nabbed in hair-raising airport incident

By HANNAH KNOWLES
The Washington Post

Drug smugglers have used everything from frozen sharks to cucumbers to breast implants to hide their contraband.

On Tuesday, the Spanish National Police Corps added another unusual method to the list: a poorly fitted toupee.

The precariously perched hairpiece, documented in photos tweeted by the agency, raised authorities’ suspicion at the airport in Barcelona, Spanish paper La Vanguardia reported. Hidden underneath was half a kilogram — about a pound — of cocaine.

Side-by-side photographs illustrate why the man caught authorities’ attention. One picture captures the dark-colored toupee protruding several inches above his head, oddly thick in contrast to the close-cropped hair below. The other shows what appears to be the package that police say he tried to smuggle through the airport.

Not pictured is the hat police say the toupee bulged out of.

The 65-year-old native of Colombia arrived on a flight from Bogotá, according to La Vanguardia. Police have not identified the man, who was apprehended last

month, nor have they said why the incident was just now publicized. They did not respond immediately to inquiries from The Washington Post.

The man, who appeared nervous, was held and charged after police found his poorly concealed package to hold 30,000 euros’ worth of cocaine, police told La Vanguardia.

More cocaine is seized in Spain than in any other European country, according to news outlet El País, which said interceptions of the drug in the nation grew by 5,000% between 1987 and 2018. Spanish officials have sought to work with other countries to curb smuggling.

Other recent incidents have spotlighted this struggle with narcotics.

In May, Spanish police arrested 12 people accused of smuggling cocaine-infused plastic from Colombia.

In June, in an embarrassing incident for Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro — who has said he would crack down on drug trafficking — a Brazilian Air Force sergeant was arrested at another Spanish airport with over 86 pounds of cocaine found on a presidential plane headed to a summit of world leaders.



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man with irritated eye has tick removed

KY PRESTONSBURG — A Kentucky man who went to the doctor with an irritated eye got the unsavory news that it contained a tick. WYMT-TV reported an optometrist used tweezers to remove the tick from Chris Prater's eye. Prater works for an electric company and had left a job site where his crew had removed a tree from power lines when his eye started bothering him. He noticed a tiny spot on his eye and tried to flush it several times to no avail. After numbing Prater's eye, the doctor removed the tick.

Police: Man threw pool balls, attacked trooper

VT NEWPORT — Court documents allege an out-of-control bar patron hit a state trooper, threw food and pool balls, threatened a person with a knife and slashed tires. Benjamin Clarke, 51, of East Haven pleaded not guilty to charges including aggravated assault on a police officer at a bar in Barton. Court documents indicate Clarke threw pool balls, threatened a person with a knife and slashed tires in the parking lot. WPTZ-TV reported that Clarke was a part-time instructor at Northern Vermont University but is not currently teaching at the school.

City hopes kids' songs will drive homeless away

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Officials in West Palm Beach are hoping a continuous loop of children's songs played throughout the night will keep homeless people from sleeping on the patio of a city-owned rental banquet facility. West Palm Beach parks and recreation director Leah Rockwell told the Palm Beach Post they're trying to discourage people from camping out along the glass-walled Lake Pavilion. She said the pavilion rakes in some \$240,000 annually from events. The loop of "Baby Sharks" and "Raining Tacos" is a temporary fix. Rockwell said the city wants to formalize hours for the park, which should make it easier to enforce trespassing laws.

Dad builds his son \$30K 'Field of Dreams'

OH BROOKFIELD — An Ohio boy's wish for a "Field of Dreams" became reality two years later. Jason Kidd initially ignored a request from his 3-year-old son to build a baseball field in the backyard of their Brookfield home in northeastern Ohio. But a few days later he realized their backyard could fit a whiffle ball field. Kidd estimates he has spent \$30,000 on the clay infield, regulation bases, raised pitcher's mounds and foul lines that he painted himself.



Rick Bowmer/AP

Cattle at the Capitol

Longhorn cattle walk across the front lawn of the Capitol during a cattle drive to kick off Utah's rodeo week Tuesday in Salt Lake City. The cattle drive was a promotion for the annual "Days of '47" celebration in Utah, an event that commemorates Brigham Young bringing Latter-day Saint pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley. Gov. Gary Herbert signed a proclamation commemorating the Days of '47.

The family calls the field "The Re-Jake" in a nod to Jacobs Field, the original name of the Cleveland Indians home ballpark.

Couple finds bullet hole in ceiling, cat shot

VA NEWPORT NEWS — A Virginia couple who found a bullet hole in the ceiling of their apartment is mourning the loss of their cat. News outlets reported Timothy and Bianca Masters came home from a wedding July 7 to find their 11-month-old cat, Bowie, injured. The couple called 911 and took him to a veterinarian. They say Bowie had surgery but his condition declined and he had to be put down. Newport News police said in a statement that Aren Floryanzia, 25, had shot through the floor of the apartment above the Masters' home during a party the night before. He's charged with property damage and a weapons offense.

Newport News police said in a statement that Aren Floryanzia, 25, had shot through the floor of the apartment above the Masters' home during a party the night before. He's charged with property damage and a weapons offense.

Dog stranded on steep hillside for days rescued

OR CANBY — The Oregon Humane Society said a dog that had been stranded on a steep hillside south of Portland for about a week was rescued. The Humane Society said neighbors in the Canby area

THE CENSUS

1K The approximate number of guns seized during a raid at a Los Angeles mansion. Girard Saenz, 58, pleaded not guilty to dozens of felonies. He was charged with 64 counts including 23 counts of possession of an assault weapon. Saenz was arrested in May after authorities, acting on a tip about illegal firearms sales, searched a multimillion-dollar home on the border of Bel Air and Holmby Hills.

called them Monday with reports of hearing an animal in distress. The Humane Society Technical Animal Rescue Team first used a drone to find the animal on the hillside. Team training coordinator Virginia Krakowiak then descended approximately 75 feet to rescue the dog described as an older Australian Shepherd mix. She said the dog appeared uninjured but thirsty and hungry.

Big firework plan sparks worry in community

WY GILLETTE — Plans to shoot off an enormous firework during a pyrotechnics convention worry some residents of a Wyoming community. Pyrotechnics Guild International will hold its annual convention in Gillette in August. One feature of the event will be setting off an enormous, mortar-style firework. The handmade shell measures 36 inches wide. Some locals worry the big boom

will be too close to their homes. Guild President Paul Smith told the Gillette News-Record his organization is scouting out different locations.

Fossil found in 1980s declared new species

TX BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — Experts said fossil remains discovered in the 1980s at a park in southwest Texas have been identified as a new genus and species of duck-billed dinosaur. Officials with Big Bend National Park announced details of the creature named Aquilarhinus palmentus for its aquiline nose and shovel-shaped jaw. Texas Tech University professor Tom Lehman discovered the fossil. The peculiar lower jaw was noted, but it wasn't until recently that researchers determined the specimen was more primitive than prior identified duckbilled dinosaurs.

Mammoth ski season won't make it to August

CA MAMMOTH LAKES — The Mammoth Mountain resort in the Eastern Sierra had hoped a winter of epic snowfall would allow skiing into August but instead will end its season this month. The resort said weather has been heating up and the remaining snow is melting fast. The last day for skiing and riding will be on July 28. Mammoth accumulated 718 inches of snow at its summit and 492 inches at the main lodge this season.

Couple survives crash with half-ton moose

MN DULUTH — A young couple was hospitalized in Duluth after surviving a collision with a half-ton moose on a dark northern Minnesota highway. Amaya Nelson, 17, was behind the wheel and her boyfriend, Remington Dellinger, 22, was a passenger when they crashed into the moose with their small car. Amaya's dad, Scott Nelson, said first responders told him it was a miracle the two survived the crash, which sent their car down an embankment. From wire reports

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Dems want Facebook to rein in currency plan

By MARCY GORDON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facebook endured a second day of criticism from Congress over its plan to create a digital currency as senior House Democrats asked Facebook to scale back the project and threatened legislation that would block big tech companies from getting into banking.

Facebook's massive market power and its record of scandals, fines and privacy breaches were on trial at a hearing Wednesday of the House Financial Services Committee. Lawmakers from both parties insisted they cannot trust the social network giant.

"I think you're pretty low on the trust spectrum right now, and understandably," Rep. Vicente Gonzalez, D-Texas, told David Marcus, the Facebook executive leading the project.

It was Marcus' second straight day of tough questioning by lawmakers.

Among their concerns is the risk that the new currency, to be called Libra, could be used for illicit activity such as money laundering or drug trafficking. Lawmakers also worry that the massive reserve created with money used to buy Libra could supplant the Federal Reserve and destabilize the financial system and that consumers could be hurt by Libra losses.

The committee's leader, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., has asked Facebook to suspend its plan for the new currency until regulators and lawmakers have a chance to fully review it. She renewed that demand to Marcus.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., asked that Facebook commit to starting with a pilot project with no more than a million users,

Major economies raise red flags over Facebook's Libra

By THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

CHANTILLY, France — Top finance officials from the Group of Seven rich democracies are warning that cryptocurrencies like Facebook's Libra should not come into use before "serious regulatory and systemic concerns" are addressed.

The chairman's concluding summary from the G-7 meeting in Chantilly, France, says the officials agreed that so-called stablecoin — cryptocurrencies pegged to real currencies — will have to meet "the highest standards" of financial regulation to prevent

money laundering or threats to the stability of the banking and financial system.

The statement says finance ministers including French host Bruno Le Maire and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin agreed that those concerns must be addressed "before such projects can be implemented."

Facebook has proposed creating Libra as a cryptocurrency that is pegged to existing currencies to make it more stable than the likes of Bitcoin, making it useable as a way to pay for things. Governments around the world are rushing to assess how that would affect the economy.

overseen by the Federal Reserve.

If Facebook cannot meet that request, Maloney said, "then Congress should seriously consider stopping this project from moving forward."

Waters held out the prospect of

legislation that would prohibit big tech companies such as Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple from becoming chartered or licensed as U.S. financial institutions and thus able to offer banking services, and specifically from estab-

lishing a digital currency.

Facebook, marshaling its more than 2 billion users around the world, "is apparently trying to create a new global financial system that will compete with the U.S. dollar," Waters said.

The congressional criticism thickened the cloud over Facebook's plan, coming after negative statements and expressions of concern from the two most powerful financial regulators, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, as well as from President Donald Trump.

In a rare endorsement of Trump's views, committee Democrats projected his negative tweets last week about cryptocurrencies and Libra on a giant electronic screen in the hearing room. Trump said Libra "will have little standing or dependability."

As he did at Tuesday's hearing by the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Marcus repeatedly took pains to assure lawmakers that Facebook would not launch the currency project until it had received all the necessary approvals from regulators and secured safeguards to protect the privacy of users' data.

He said Facebook will not con-

trol Libra because Facebook will be only one of about 100 companies and nonprofits in an association that will manage the currency.

Marcus said the plan would open low-cost online commerce to millions of people around the world who lack access to bank accounts and would make it cheaper to send money across borders.

He did not agree to a suspension of the plan or a pilot project. "We will take the time to get this right," Marcus said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 19)	\$1.1502
Dollar buys (July 19)	€0.8694
British pound (July 19)	\$1.28
Japanese yen (July 19)	¥106.00
South Korean won (July 19)	₩1,152.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2478
Canada (dollar)	1.3081
China (yuan)	6.8804
Denmark (krone)	6.6572
Egypt (pound)	16.6988
Euro	\$1.1217/0.8915
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8152
Hungary (forint)	230.31
Israel (shekel)	3.5442
Japan (yen)	107.97
Kuwait (dinar)	0.3044
Norway (krone)	6.6032
Philippines (peso)	51.08
Poland (zloty)	3.80
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (dollar)	1.3616
South Korea (won)	1,177.45
Switzerland (franc)	0.9873
Thailand (baht)	30.88
Turkey (lira)	5.6920

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	4.40
3-month bill	2.08
30-year bond	2.57

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.449	--	\$3.109
Change in price	--	+3.0 cents	--	No change
Okinawa	\$2.829	--	--	\$3.109
Change in price	+3.0 cents	--	--	No change
South Korea	\$2.889	--	\$3.479	\$3.139
Change in price	+3.0 cents	--	+3.0 cents	No change
Guam	\$2.839*	\$3.199	\$3.459	--
Change in price	+3.0 cents	+2.0 cents	+3.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD

Midgrade

For the week

of July 19 - 25

EUROPE GAS PRICES

European gas prices were not made available before press time by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

MARKET WATCH

July 17, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-115.78
27,219.85	
Nasdaq composite	-37.59
8,185.21	
Standard & Poor's 500	-19.62
2,984.42	
Russell 2000	-11.22
1,550.78	

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND



Ed Sheeran's
stacked Rolodex
Music, Page 36



'The Lion King' roars back into theaters with
a live-action remake for a new generation

Movies, Pages 24-25

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Shazam!”: After stumbling around trying to find the right tone for its movies, the executives behind the DC cinematic universe have found the right path. All it required was going back to what made the company so successful before Marvel Comics came along.

“Shazam!” reflects the original thinking of the company that it is possible to have a character with superpowers that doesn’t have to be weighed down with the problems of the universe. The film is full of energy, life and smile-inducing entertainment. Most of that comes from how a 14-year-old boy would act if he suddenly had superpowers and also looked and talked like an adult. The first thing he does is buy beer.

This “Superman” meets “Big” works because of Zachary Levi, who plays the adult Shazam. Best known for “Chuck,” the actor has a boyish quality that makes it believable that underneath that red-and-yellow suit beats the heart of a teen.



New Line Cinema

Zachary Levi and Jack Dylan Grazer make a delightful duo in “Shazam!,” now on DVD.

“Space: 1999: The Complete Series”: This two-season science fiction series that was originally broadcast from 1975 to 1977 is being released on Blu-ray and DVD for the first time in North America. It remains one of the best television offerings in the genre because of the same smart writing that made “Star Trek” so popular almost a decade before, plus far superior visual effects and art direction.

The production looked at the aftermath of a nuclear waste dump on the lunar surface that unexpectedly detonates. The blast knocks the moon out of Earth’s orbit and takes the inhabitants of Moonbase Alpha on a trip across the galaxy. It features a superb cast topped by Martin Landau and Barbara Bain.

Also available on DVD:

“Breakthrough”: Chrissy Metz stars in this film based on the true story about the importance of faith.

“Titans: The Complete First Season”: Dick Grayson (Brenton Thwaites) joins forces with a group of young people who have special powers.

“American Masters: Robert Shaw: Man of Many Voices”: Documentary looks at the life of the legendary musician.

“Criminal Minds: Season 14”: A team of FBI agents tracks down the most dangerous and unstable criminals. Joe Mantegna stars.

“Moon”: The Sam Rockwell science fiction film is being rereleased to mark the movie’s 10th anniversary.

“Don’t Look at Me That Way”: Mongolian-born documentary director Uisenma Borchu makes her feature film debut with this film that looks at what happens when cultures collide.

“Fast Color”: Young woman with superhuman abilities decides to go home and search for help. Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Lorraine Toussaint star.

“Dogman”: A timid dog groomer faces a monumental decision that could change his life.

“NOVA: First Horse Warriors”: A look at how man finally mastered the use of horses.
— Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

To a T ‘Pearson’ suits Torres perfectly

By Rick Bentley
Tribune News Service

Gina Torres lives by one rule: Never say never. It looked like the New York native had left the legal world of “Suits” behind in 2016 after the midseason finale of the USA Network series when her character quit the firm. Torres had signed on to join the cast of the ABC drama “The Catch” for its second season and had tired of traveling from Los Angeles to Toronto, where “Suits” filmed.

When “The Catch” ended after the second season, Torres kept working until she got the call to reprise the role she had played on “Suits,” but this time as the star of the series.

“I didn’t walk away from ‘Suits’ saying ‘never’ because clearly, I kept coming back a few times through the course of the last few seasons. But I didn’t expect the character to be the star of a new show,” Torres says. “What’s really so wonderful about this show, I get to have this second chance with Jessica Pearson that you now get to see a fully realized human being, a fully fleshed out woman, and what it costs her to stay at the top of her game, to maintain relationships, interpersonal relationships, whether they’re professional or whether they’re personal.”

“We never really got to see that. It was always in service to the firm. But now she’s in service to her own life, and what does that mean and how does that look?”

In the spinoff, the recently disbarred Pearson adjusts to the dog-eat-dog world of Chicago politics. She is the newly appointed fixer for Mayor Bobby Novak (Morgan Spector), which puts Pearson in major moral dilemmas.

Torres was ready to continue playing the character because there was so much more she wanted to do with the role. It’s an added bonus that the series is filmed in Los Angeles so she doesn’t have to travel so much.

“We know so little about Jessica in the world of ‘Suits.’ She didn’t have a family of her own. She didn’t have an enduring relationship. There were still so many doors that were unopened into her psyche, into her personal life,” Torres says. “The one thing you saw when she exited the firm was that she wanted to get back to what mattered to her. The reason she got into law in the first place.”

“We are asking you to go along this journey with her as she figures out who she is now. I don’t feel like I am playing the same character in a lot of ways.”

Torres knows about playing wildly different characters, having starred in high-concept shows like “Alias,” “Angel,” “Cleopatra 2525” and “Firefly.”

The long list of guest-starring credits for Torres includes “24,” “The Shield,” “Gossip Girl,” “Hannibal” and “Flash Forward.” She’s also voiced the roles of Vixen in “The Justice League” series and Superwoman in “Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths.” Film credits include “The Matrix Reloaded” and “I Think I Love My Wife.”

Although she’s worked in both TV and film, Torres will always look at television as her first acting love. The one thread that runs through all her work is that she’s drawn to playing strong and powerful women.

“Because the nature of television allows more of a protracted arc for any given character, there’s more of an opportunity for you to get to know a strong woman in a more fleshed-out way,” says Torres. “Where in film, they are usually the woman behind the man behind the woman. She comes in, she makes whatever magic she needs to make and then she’s out. With television, you get to spend more time with those characters, and there is just more opportunity. There’s more to do.”

“Pearson” airs Thursdays on AFN-Spectrum.

Gina Torres expands her “Suits” character Jessica Pearson on “Pearson,” now airing on AFN-Spectrum.

USA Network

WEEKEND: TELEVISION



NBC/AP

‘This morning, my dad and I were out getting supplies. We did a little Irish jig, embarrassing ourselves, I’m sure.’

Chris Sullivan
outstanding supporting actor nominee for “This Is Us,” while on a break from working on a classic car at his parents’ house in Sacramento, Calif.

emmy dreams

Now that Emmy Awards nominations have been released, critics and fans have been parsing the recognitions, snubs and surprises. But what do the actors have to say? Here are a few reactions from those who might or might not have thought they had a shot at Emmy nomination glory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



HBO/AP

‘I’m feeling really jazzed. It might be the coffee I just had. But this feels so much sweeter because it’s the last time around for this show.’

Anna Chlumsky
up for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series for “Veep”



AMAZON/AP

‘I’m at the dog park this morning with my fur children and started getting a lot of texts and phone calls all at once. I’m so excited to learn that the ‘Maise!’ family has been invited back to the party. This category is ridiculous. I can’t believe I get to be a part of anything with these amazing women.’

Rachel Brosnahan
up for outstanding comedy actress for “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”



Hulu/AP

Patricia Arquette, top, and Joey King earned Emmy nominations for their roles in a limited series or movie for “The Act.”

‘I was dead asleep and my phone rang and it was Joey King on FaceTime crying. But she was crying happy tears and I said “Did you get nominated?” And she cried and I said “What is it? Did you get nominated?” and she shook her head yes and then she said “We both did!” It was such a great feeling to see her face and feel her joy she is so damn talented and she kept saying “I couldn’t do it without you.” But she could have because she is an incredible talent. Then my boyfriend came in and told me about all the nominations for “Escape at Dannemora,” too. Then Ben Stiller texted me. So it was a pretty amazing morning.’

Patricia Arquette
who is up for outstanding supporting actress in a limited series for “The Act” and lead actress in a limited series for “Escape at Dannemora”

‘I’m in South Africa filming “The Kissing Booth 2,” and I’m sitting in my transport vehicle with my producer. We just watched the livestream together and I’m on my ... hotspot on my super old computer. This is like the greatest (expletive) moment of my life.’

Joey King
who earned her first Emmy nomination for outstanding lead actress in a limited series or movie for “The Act”



SHOWTIME/AP

Arquette in “Escape at Dannemora.”



NETFLIX/AP

‘I was watching it live on my phone. I was in a restaurant with some of my friends from high school. ... It was a big mistake meeting in a restaurant, because the second we found out, we went crazy. I’m talking, glass breaking and falling. People were freaking out thinking that somebody had passed out on my table. It was hilarious.’

Jharrel Jerome
up for outstanding lead actor in a limited series for “When They See Us”

WEEKEND: MOVIES



JD McCrary, 11, provides the voice of young Simba, left, and young Nala is voiced by Shahadi Wright Joseph, 14, in the remake of "The Lion King."



REBECCA CABAGE, INVISION/AP

Joseph, left, and McCrary have been waiting for what feels like a lifetime for "The Lion King" to come out.

Finding their roar

Young 'Lion King' actors on filling iconic Disney roles of Simba and Nala

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

The pressure was on for young actors Shahadi Wright Joseph and JD McCrary when they got word that they'd been cast as the voices of young Nala and young Simba in "The Lion King." Not only was it an ambitious remake of an iconic film, but it was their first major Hollywood project.

Then they found out that their characters' adult voices would be done by Beyoncé and Donald Glover, and it took "just waiting to be king" to a whole new level.

But director Jon Favreau was confident that they could fill the "big shoes" of their adult voices for the film, which opens in theaters this week. Fourteen-year-old Shahadi, for one, had a pretty big advantage: At age 8, she played young Nala in the Broadway production. In fact, casting director Sarah Finn submitted only her name to be considered.

Favreau was on board.

"She understood the role, she understood the music and she's got an incredibly powerful Broadway voice," Favreau said. "She's just this very unique talent."

JD, 11, was less of an obvious choice. He didn't have much of a résumé in film work. Finn, who had helped find Neel Sethi for "The Jungle Book" years ago, had to cast a wide net to find her young Simba, from seasoned veterans to open call unknowns. Favreau said JD broke through as the front-runner when he saw YouTube videos of him singing.

"He definitely had the right voice and a lot of personality as well," Favreau said. "He was somebody who was really interpreting songs and putting a lot of personality into it."

Then, as the filmmakers were getting ready to make the then-8-year-old JD an offer, they learned that he'd just collaborated with Glover on the Childish Gambino song "Terrified."

"Donald definitely vouched for JD and said he was great," Favreau said. "I felt there was something pre-ordained about (it)."

JD said getting that call was, "One of

the biggest moments of my life."

The two young actors had the benefit of being able to record together in the studio, which doesn't often happen for animated films. It allowed them to riff and play off of one another's personalities.

"I feel like if I didn't work with JD we wouldn't have that chemistry on the screen," Shahadi said. "It would have been mindless actors just saying the lines and not actually feeling them."

She found it particularly liberating to be able to mess up and improvise in the studio. It was a stark contrast to performing for a live audience on Broadway, where she said you "cannot make a mistake."

Favreau also made sure that the young actors had a sense of the world they were inhabiting through a virtual reality demo that allowed them to see Pride Rock and the rest of the settings.

"The VR was really cool," JD said. "It was like your first sneak peek, but you were in it; you could feel it."

It's been three years since Shahadi and JD were cast, which for kids at that age can feel like a lifetime of waiting. But they've been busy. Both worked in other

films released this year. Shahadi played the daughter of Lupita Nyong'o in Jordan Peele's "Us," and JD appeared in "Little" alongside Marsai Martin.

On the day after the world premiere in Los Angeles, both were riding high from finally seeing the movie on screen with a receptive audience, many of whom could be heard crying at key parts.

"I made a lot of people cry," JD said proudly.

And then of course there is the fun of being in proximity to so many stars.

"It was awesome! So cool!" JD said, nearly jumping out of his seat with excitement. "I was backstage with Chance the Rapper, Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Blue Ivy, Donald Glover, everybody!"

Shahadi said she was still recovering from meeting Beyoncé for the first time.

As for what's next, both are looking forward to more acting roles, and they even have a suggestion for the next one.

"I want to re-do 'The Wiz,'" JD said. He'd play the Scarecrow and Shahadi would be Dorothy.

"That would be dope," he said.

Actor leans on theatrical background to voice Scar

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

Whether it be the 1994 animated version of "The Lion King" or the new live-action version of the animal tale, the one thing that remains a constant is that Scar is one of the most manipulative, power-hungry, control-obsessed characters in Disney history. Jeremy Irons was behind bringing that evil to life in the animated version, and now it is Chiwetel Ejiofor who has taken over providing the voice for the role in the new theatrical release.

As with most actors who have taken on roles that are so obviously evil in nature, Ejiofor didn't go into the project playing the role as if Scar was aware of being evil.

"When you are looking at a character, you are looking to empathize and not necessarily sympathize, and I think in that sense you are looking with Scar at someone who is envious but he's also corrupted by this idea of power and status — and many of us are," Ejiofor says. "He takes it to a very exaggerated place."

"If you feel that your status or your power is interrupted — and you are the kind of person where that makes life hard for you — then it is hard for you to not pursue a corrective to that. And then feel justified in that corrective because it is the only thing that brings you peace."

In the case of "The Lion King," this manifests itself through Scar's efforts to get rid of the

king of the lion pride, Mufasa (James Earl Jones), and his heir, Simba (JD McCrary, Donald Glover), so he can rule. It is up to Simba to grow up and become the kind of leader who can stand up to the king who rules with deep villainy.

Ejiofor said it was easy to find the tone to play Scar as the film shows heaving influences from the works of William Shakespeare with a particular focus on "Hamlet." Ejiofor started appearing in school plays while still in junior high school and continued acting at Dulwich College, with National Youth Theatre and while attending the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

It was during his time in col-

lege that Ejiofor saw the original animated version of "The Lion King."

"I felt like its themes were so powerful and so resonant and so beautifully distilled even from the Shakespeare," Ejiofor says. "I saw it really boils down to being a story about ethical leadership essentially and about strong moral values."

"It's also about paternal and maternal ideas in a strong bonded way and how that is central to our community. The film touched me as a kid and still touches me today. In a way as much as I, absolutely with everybody else, loved the original, you kind of make it your own and you create the sort of individuality to it in that way."



Chiwetel Ejiofor

WEEKEND: MOVIES

MAJESTIC REMAKE

‘Lion King’ a visually dazzling, technically innovative new version of Disney classic

By RAFER GUZMAN
Newsday

Cutting-edge technology tells a story of primal power in Disney’s new version of “The Lion King.” It’s the studio’s third reworking of an animated classic this year, following an overstuffed “Aladdin” and a weighed-down “Dumbo,” but get ready: “The Lion King” is a whole different animal. It might not capture hearts like the 1994 original, or even the still-running Broadway play, but this extraordinary movie is so visually stunning and technically innovative that it could mark another “Avatar”-level event.

Using computer animation and virtual-reality techniques rather than ink and paint, “The Lion King” creates an African savanna of breathtaking photorealism. It isn’t just the gorgeous backdrops that trick the eye but the wildlife, from lions with rippling ribs to rhinoceros beetles with whirring wings.

The young Simba has a series of adventures on the way to claiming his birthright in “The Lion King,” a computer-animated remake of the 1994 animated Disney musical.

DISNEY/AP

Some mental readjustment is required when the animals, as regal and impassive as anything in a National Geographic documentary, start talking.

The unseen voice actors do almost as much heavy lifting as the effects team, although with less consistent results. Simba, the young lion exiled from his kingdom, is played as a cub by an excellent JD McCrary, but as an adult by a somewhat too-casual Donald Glover. His betrothed, Nala (Beyoncé), still has only a few lines, despite a slightly expanded role.

Comic relief comes from Billy Eichner as the sassy meerkat Timon and Seth Rogen as his warthog sidekick, Pumbaa; you’ll hear Keegan-Michael Key and

John Oliver, too.

The realism of the animals’ faces, though, make them inexpressive. Even the best actors — including James Earl Jones, returning as Simba’s father, Mufasa — can sound merely overlaid onto the footage. Only the booming voice of Chiwetel Ejiofor, as the sinister lion Scar, seems to come straight from the character’s throat. Scar is also one of the film’s best visual creations, a bony-shouldered villain with a ratty gray coat.

Director Jon Favreau follows the original film nearly shot for shot, taking little liberties where needed. The Elton John-Tim Rice musical numbers still sparkle, particularly the fan favorite “Hakuna Matata”; an OK new song, “Never Too

Late,” accompanies the closing credits. What consistently dazzles are the effects, from the smallest twitch of an ear to the awesome sight of stampeding wildebeests. Caleb Deschanel’s cinematography, computer-generated though it may be, is positively majestic.

It might have been more impressive to see all this effort go into a new, original story rather than a remake. Still, it’s hard to blame Disney for recycling a beloved classic into the kind of family-friendly, eye-popping spectacle that’s missing from theaters right now. Audiences are likely to eat it up. And that’s the circle of life.

“The Lion King” is rated PG for some violence. Running time: 118 minutes.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

[Jon] Favreau’s take on the story draws out its dark, traumatizing elements in new, disturbing ways: Scar’s manipulations, the violence of Mufasa’s death, Simba’s cowardice. This new “Lion King” is no triumph, but a real tragedy.

— Katie Walsh/TNS

There’s something about this “Lion King,” which, like the original, has its narrative roots in “Hamlet,” that feels so much more Shakespearean and — there’s no other word for it — so much more tragic than the 1994 feature-length animation, in which the story’s darker themes were subliminal, not center stage.

— Michael O’Sullivan
The Washington Post

It’s easy to greet these remakes both cynically and a little eagerly. In the case of “The Lion King,” the songs are still good, the Shakespearean story still solid. And, well, Beyoncé’s in it. And yet Jon Favreau’s “The Lion King,” so abundant with realistic simulations of the natural world, is curiously lifeless.

— Jake Coyle/AP



WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

HANG ON

By
TODD
MARTENS
Los Angeles
Times

Sea of Solitude explores the terrors of loneliness, what it means to be human

We're accustomed to games, even the most nuanced, beginning with a clear problem: an outlaw on the run, a world in peril, a loved one kidnapped and held hostage by a gorilla.

Sea of Solitude, however, starts with an overwhelmed plea, a phrase spoken with equal amounts of desperation and hopelessness: "Change me."

These words might be familiar to anyone who's battled anxiety, depression or even had a sleepless night, and this is how we meet Kay, a teenage girl whose once-human form has been replaced with demon-red eyes and feathers darkened as if by an oil spill. Though monstrous, we're not scared of her; Kay seems afraid, fatigued and ailing.

We will in moments meet a proper monster. And though some of these creatures have the ability to swallow Kay whole, death never appears to be their ultimate goal, not when emotional manipulation will slowly and more excruciatingly allow someone to gradually kill off everything they love about themselves.

"You have no idea what you're doing — as usual," they may say. Or more crassly: "Ugly runs in your family."

Electronic Arts published Sea of Solitude, an exploration into the terrors of loneliness from Cornelia Geppert's Berlin-based Jo-Mei Games. Prior to Sea of Solitude, the company survived by developing mobile and browser games for third-party clients.

Sea of Solitude is not a game-as-medicine; at times, its tenseness borders on survival horror, requiring Kay to evade ghostly forms. The Geppert-directed game works in metaphorical ways, putting emotion ahead of plot and making the argument that interactive entertainment should speak as thoughtfully about mental health as film, television and music, where works such as "Maniac," "Us" or even the songs of Billie Eilish have inspired conversations about what it means to be human.

While Sea of Solitude is far from the first game to look honestly and seriously at weighty subject matter, it advances the notion that play is a storytelling device and not just a means for competition or puzzle-solving.

"I want them to enjoy the ride," Geppert says of her goal for those who play Sea of Solitude. Yet she also wants those who experience the game to walk away with a different idea of what winning means.

"I want people to see that whatever you are up to — whatever your next goal is — it's not about that you come out at the end with the perfect score, that you're the superhero and everything will be fine. That is not the case. This is about having a more calm way of going through life, and that you will know that bad times will come again, and very good times will come again, no matter what you do."

While topics related to mental health aren't new to games, they're far from the norm. Ninja Theory's Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice used action and horror elements to delve into psychosis while Accidental Queens' mobile Another Lost Phone: Laura's Story tackled themes of sexual identity, bullying and domestic abuse.

Night in the Woods from Infinite Fall tackled coming-of-age existentialism and post-traumatic stress disorder. And with Psychonauts, Double Fine Presents sought to explore, with exaggeration, mind games and emotional stress. A sequel for the latter is due next year, and while the "Psychonauts" games specialize in action and humor, they also carry plenty of heart.

"I think Psychonauts is a very humanist game," says creator and Double Fine founder Tim Schafer. "It's very empathetic to those characters; even the villain is redeemed. You go inside his head and

learn about childhood and you literally see him fight his personal demons. It helps you understand him as a person. I think that is the philosophy of Psychonauts.

"Even though we get into issues of mental illness, and we do it with comedy, we treat characters with respect," he continues. "We draw upon personal experiences with those issues rather than just stereotypes."

What makes Sea of Solitude so enrapturing is that it truly feels like one is learning to understand Geppert's personal experience. Though developed with a team of 12, Sea of Solitude unfolds like a conversation between the player and designer.

When we meet a fearsome bird, the narrator stops us from running, telling us the character is sad rather than predatory. Such small moments upend the idea of villain and victim and make it clear that Sea of Solitude is ultimately a quest for understanding.

Geppert pauses while dialing down into such topics, wanting to stress that she is not a medical professional. "I need to say it again; this is a personal story," she says. "I didn't write it to show a specific way to become more healthy."

"Sharing is a good thing in general. I'm a person that is very open with emotions. I have this voice, and I love to share. Other people can look at me and say, 'There's someone opening up. I can do that too.'"

There is an underlying mystery to Sea of Solitude. We immediately want to know what happened to Kay to transform her and how she can be normal again. But that question fades before we've finished so much as an hour of the game. While Kay may not look human, she is far from abnormal.

Sea of Solitude is not a game about curing Kay of the monster who has taken her over; it's a game about understanding that we all have something of a monster inside us, and maybe sometimes that in itself is normal.

"When there is a hard hit in life, when something hits you hard, you look at your life and think, 'What is going on with me? What are my issues? How can I be more common-like?' Sometimes that's in your 20s. Sometimes that's in your 30s. Sometimes it's in your 60s. It doesn't have a time, but everyone has that."

"This," she says, "is figuring out life always contains hard parts. You can't remove them forever. It's just the way you deal with hardships — that's what you can improve. But it's impossible to forever become completely happy."

Platforms: PS4, XBOX One, PC
Online: ea.com/games/sea-of-solitude



Courtesy of Dania Maxwell

Cornelia Geppert led the design of Sea of Solitude, a deeply personal game about her struggles with loneliness and depression.

Electronic Arts

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



FOUNTAIN OF MOSES

Pope Sixtus V had this fountain built in the 1580s as a terminus for an aqueduct he'd restored.

The tall facade has three alcoves. One contains a statue of Moses and two have biblical scenes engraved in bas-relief — each positioned above a mini waterfall. Several lion sculptures squirt water from their mouths.

No plaza surrounds the fountain. Only a sidewalk separates it from a busy street, making it a bit tricky to shoot photos.

On a sweltering day, a group of nuns stopped at the fountain. Their reverent visit soon turned into a water fight. I was splashed with stray water.

The perpetrator, a young nun with a mischievous smile, said, "Feels good, huh?" In the 98-degree heat, I had to admit it was a godsend.



FOUR RIVERS FOUNTAIN

Four river gods envelop the base of a towering obelisk in the Piazza Navona, a former Roman arena that was transformed into a public square during the Renaissance. Designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in 1651, the Baroque fountain's rivers symbolize Christianity flowing into four continents.

The Danube, crowned with a wreath, embodies Europe. The Nile, which represents Africa, has a cloth over its head to illustrate the river's unknown source at the time. The Ganges clasps an oar to suggest it's navigable. The Rio de la Plata sits on a pile of coins to depict the Americas' untapped riches.

The artistry was unprecedented for a public fountain, and it remains a marvel.

Bring coins and wishes

Rome's beautifully sculpted fountains offer refreshing visits

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

Fountains in Rome are almost as plentiful as cathedrals. You don't have to walk far to bump into one, whether it's at the Vatican, Spanish Steps or Pantheon.

Many of Rome's age-old fountains were built to provide clean drinking water to the public, improve the city's aesthetics and serve as religious monuments.

Although Romans routinely washed in them before the advent of indoor plumbing, jumping into a fountain now can get you fined 450 euros (\$510).

Here are five beautifully sculpted fountains — besides the famous, often crowded Trevi — that are worth a visit 24 hours a day.

wyland.scott@stripes.com
Twitter: @wylandstripes



TRITON FOUNTAIN

A half-man, half-fish god known as Triton kneels on four entwined dolphins and holds to his lips a conch that he blows to stir up or calm the sea.

Water spurts from the shell and cascades to a pool surrounding the statue in the Piazza Barberini, near the National Gallery of Ancient Art.

It's another Bernini masterwork. He made it for Pope Urban VIII around 1642, sculpting one of Rome's first artistic fountains in an open urban setting.

Originally, water gushed higher and it stood among short buildings, creating a dramatic effect. But even now, it looks like a force of nature.



TURTLE FOUNTAIN

The fountain, featuring four male figures grasping at turtles in an overhead basin, was a sensation when it was completed in the late 1580s. However, the figures originally clasped dolphins.

Weak water flow from an aqueduct prompted authorities to remove the dolphins so the fountain would spout instead of trickle. Turtles were added in the 1650s to give the statues something to clutch. Bernini was one of the artists believed to have sculpted the turtles.

In the U.S., copies of the fountain can be found in San Francisco; Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; Sarasota, Fla.; and Newport, R.I.



FONTANA DELL'ACQUA PAOLA

This fountain with its giant, ornate facade was built in 1612 as a decorative end point to a Roman aqueduct that Pope Paul V restored to supply clean drinking water west of the Tiber River. The pope got the idea for the grand facade from the Fountain of Moses.

Paul's fountain, with its five water flows, became the basic model for the Trevi Fountain.

It is featured in the opening scene of the Oscar-winning Italian film "The Great Beauty." It stands on Janiculum Hill, which offers panoramic views of Rome.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Tivoli: Millennia later, still Rome's great escape

When travel dreams take people to Europe, Italy is often their first stop. There's something seductively charming about this country, its people and its dolce vita. I always feel at home in Italy, whether struggling onto a crowded bus in Rome, navigating the fun chaos of Naples, sipping a cocktail in a Venetian bar or sitting on the banister of Florence's Ponte Vecchio for a midnight street-music concert.

But I also seek escapes from Italy's urban intensity. When I'm visiting Rome, I like to travel about 18 miles east to the hill town of Tivoli, a popular retreat since ancient times. Today it's famous for two very different villas: Hadrian's Villa, a Roman emperor's countryside getaway, and Villa d'Este, the lush and watery 16th-century residence of a Catholic cardinal. Hadrian (ruled AD 117-138) had a perfectly good villa in Rome, but he preferred to live outside the capital, and toward the end of his reign, he lived full-time at Tivoli. Just as Louis XIV governed France from Versailles rather than Paris, Hadrian ruled Rome from this villa complex of more than 300 evocative acres.

An architect, lover of Greek culture and great traveler, Hadrian envisioned the site as a microcosm of the lands he ruled, which at that point stretched from Great Britain to the Euphrates River. In the spirit of Legoland and Las Vegas, he re-created famous structures from around the known world, producing a kind of diorama of his empire.

By the time Hadrian was finished, he had erected more than 30 buildings and created extensive gardens. With libraries, temples, baths, theaters and palaces for himself and his friends and staff, the estate was completely self-contained.

Although most buildings in the complex have long since vanished, you can feel Hadrian's hand in some remaining

structures. The emperor surrounded a rectangular water basin — meant to represent the Nile — with columns and statues, including copies of the caryatids he had admired at the Acropolis. At one end he built a temple in memory of his close friend (and perhaps lover) Antinous, who had tragically drowned in the Nile.



Rick Steves

Regrettably, with the fall of the empire, this "Versailles of Ancient Rome" was first plundered by barbarians and then by Renaissance big shots, who all wanted some relic of the classical world in their courtyards. They

even burned the marble to make lime for cement. The scavenged art wound up in museums throughout Europe. (Some statues ended up across town, at the Villa d'Este.)

Much later, in 1550, another patron of the arts, Cardinal Ippolito d'Este, further transformed the Tivoli landscape. Even though he was a man of the cloth, Ippolito, cultured and wealthy, lived like a secular prince. When he lost a closely contested election to be the next pope in 1549, he consoled himself by building his sumptuous villa in Tivoli. He cleared a Benedictine convent from the site and erected a luxurious Renaissance palace, with elaborately frescoed walls and ceilings.

But the main attraction at the Villa d'Este is the spectacular garden (which wasn't fully installed until after Ippolito's death). A hallmark of Italian design, it clings to a steep hill cascading with pools, streams, waterfalls and thundering fountains. Towering cypress, boxwood hedges, Roman statuary and pleasant paths direct



SUZANNE KOTZ/Ricksteves.com

At his villa in Tivoli, Emperor Hadrian re-created architectural styles and statuary from across his vast empire.

the eye toward stately vistas all around.

Creating such an elaborate water park required the collaboration of a garden architect to lay out the garden, a hydraulic engineer (to get water to the site) and a plumber (who made sure the fountains worked). At Tivoli, the hillside site was massively excavated and re-engineered so the water features could be gravity-fed.

Pirro Ligorio, Tivoli's architect, was conveniently also excavating Hadrian's Villa at the same time. That site provided much in inspiration — and raw material — for the fountains of Villa d'Este. Ligorio basically used Hadrian's Villa as a quarry to provide statuary and decorative stonework for his vision.

After Ippolito's death, the estate was passed down in the Este family, but by the

19th century the house was in disrepair and the fountains plugged up. Now in the hands of the Italian state, it's been completely restored, with all of its fabulous water features back in operation.

While Hadrian's Villa is about haunting ruins and a storied history, Villa d'Este is simply beautiful and relaxing (and is especially appealing when it's sweltering in Rome). The two sights complement each other well and combine to make a satisfying day trip from Rome. An easy subway/bus combination gets you from the city to Tivoli, where a public bus connects the two villas.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Moors and Christians festival in Spain

Moros y Cristianos, or Moors and Christians, is the blanket term for a number of festivals recalling the strife between the two cultures over long centuries in the Iberian Peninsula. Parades, camps and mock battles take over streets and squares, which are decked out to resemble the Middle Ages. Members of local historical associations in costumes reflecting the fashions of the times, with Christians in armor and chain mail and Moors in turbans and brightly colored robes. These festivals take place in many parts of Spain and abroad, but they remain especially popular in Valencia.

One of the best events is held in Villajoyosa, a coastal town 20 miles northeast of the city of Alicante. For eight days, the town time-travels back to 1538, when Berber pirates attacked the city. According to legend, the town was saved by the interventions of St. Marta, who caused a flash flood to wipe out the enemy's fleet. In gratitude, the town named her its patron saint and holds this annual festival in her honor.

Festivities marking this long-ago event unfold July 24-31. Don't-miss elements include pro-



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler](https://www.stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler)



cessions of resplendently dressed Moors and Christians marching in time to drums and music July 25-26. Early in the morning of July 28, the Desembarco, a reenactment of an invasion by sea, takes place. Some 30 Moorish vessels land on the coast, and the two armies fight in a mock battle until they reach the foot of the castle. The Moors first take the castle, but by afternoon, the Christian soldiers have returned, and following unsuccessful negotiations, a great battle ensues. This ends with the defeat of the Moors, who are symbolically sent back out to sea.

In addition to the history lesson, visitors will find all the usual exuberance of a Spanish fiesta, to

include live music, dancing in the streets, culinary competitions, fireworks and more.

Online: tinyurl.com/y3cfffsh

Bavaria's free concerts

Bavaria beckons throughout the weekend with a trio of free music festivals hitting just the right notes.

From July 18-21, Regensburg's Bayerisches Jazzweekend entices visitors with a rich program of jazz in its many genres. In more than a dozen indoor and outdoor venues, the sounds of bebop to blues and soul to swing will ring out. Performers include a mix of seasoned professionals and enthusiastic amateurs. This fest is family friendly by day, but it also includes late-night sessions sure to please the night owls. Online: bayerisches-jazz-weekend.de/

On July 20, Munich's Marstallplatz is the site of an open-air performance by the Bayerische Staatsoper. This year's program includes vocal and instrumental music from classic Broadway musicals. The concert begins at 8:30 p.m. Online: staatsoper.de/operfueralle.html

On July 21, Nuremberg's Luitpoldhain hosts two events, including a concert geared to families from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and a performance by the



MARKUS-RAUPACH/mybamberg.de

Street artists and musicians aplenty will entertain on July 19-21 at Bamberg's Zaubert.

Staatsphilharmonie Nuremberg from 8 p.m.-11 p.m., capped off by fireworks. Online: klassikonline.nuernberg.de/konzerte/termine-2019

Mesmerizing Bamberg

In addition to stunning architecture and a centuries-old beer culture, a secret ingredient adds to Bamberg's allure through the weekend.

Bamberg Zaubert is a festival in which about 120 street artists and musicians from 14 countries take to the city's hidden corners and spacious squares to perform. A cast of magicians, clowns, acrobats, comedians and more does its best to amaze and delight. Hip-hop, martial arts and fire artists are expected as well.

The festival runs afternoons through the late evening July 19-21. Entry is free, but performers rely on spectators for tips. Online: bamberg-zaubert.mylamberg.de/english/welcome

French flair by the Neckar

Bad Wimpfen, an inviting small city along the Neckar that's roughly equidistant from Stuttgart and Heidelberg, takes on a French flair over the weekend with an arts festival by the name of Montmartre.

On narrow lanes overlooked by a Gothic church, the atmosphere resembles that of a lively French market, with vendors offering culinary specialties, sparkling ciders and other treats. Artists sell their paintings and other handcrafted items as musicians provide a fitting soundtrack.

Visit between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. July 20 or 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. Entry is free. Online: tinyurl.com/y2l5bja

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

Dine like a prince at Burg Lichtenberg

By BRIAN FERGUSON

Stars and Stripes

Eating out with friends is always enjoyable, no matter what restaurant you go to. But when it's the one on the grounds of 13th-century German castle Burg Lichtenberg, the enjoyment is multiplied by delicious food and hospitality fit for a prince.

Burg Lichtenberg lies about halfway between Kaiserslautern and Trier, and is one of the largest castles in Germany. The BurgRestaurant is about 50 yards from the entrance to the castle and offers a wide choice of German cuisine.

Before ordering, my two guests and I relaxed on the large patio, sheltering in the shade of linden trees from the unusually hot German summer. It took a few minutes for the server to notice us, but once she did, we did not go without a fresh beer or water all night.

Because there were three of us, we got to try three different dishes. Andrew ordered steak with fried onions and potatoes. Perry ordered venison stew, and I chose the pork tenderloin. An unspoken bet was on as to whose meal would turn out to be the best.

The venison stew arrived in a large bowl. The BurgRestaurant prides itself on its game, which it says is hunted locally. My pork tenderloin was perfectly cooked and delicious. But after sampling Andrew's medium-cooked steak, I knew he'd won the bet. Perry ate all of his stew before I could try it, so his meal was out of the running. Maybe that was his plan the whole time.

After the meal, we sat back to enjoy one more cold beer. One of the best things about German restaurants is that no one asks you to leave, even if they need your table.

And at the BurgRestaurant, they probably did. Hundreds of people visit the castle grounds every day. With so many visitors, they could have cut corners on preparing and presenting the food, and on hospitality. They did not.

After dinner, we walked the castle grounds, criss-crossed with cobblestone roads and hugged by 800-year-old walls. In addition to the castle and restaurant, Burg Lichtenberg has a playground, a shop and a hotel.

My advice to you: visit the castle, eat at the



AFTER
HOURS
GERMANY



The steak with onions and potatoes is cooked to order. Our group of three decided it was the best meal of the night.



The mocha cappuccino looks like a dessert and is delicious.

restaurant and take the kids. The playground is awesome, and so are the food and the history.

ferguson.brian@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

The large patio at BurgRestaurant at Lichtenberg Castle, in Thallichtenberg, Germany, is shaded by umbrellas and trees.



The restaurant's interior seating is open and inviting.

BURGRESTAURANT

Location: Burgstrasse 12, 66871 Thallichtenberg, Germany

Hours: Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed on Monday

Prices: Appetizers, 5 - 11 euros. Main course items, 10-26 euros.

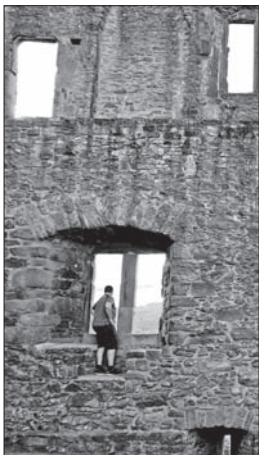
English menu: Yes

Dress: Casual

Information: +49 6381 2633 or online: burglichtenberg.de

Note: Vegetarian and vegan options available. Food allergies catered to. Reservations are recommended. Cash or credit cards accepted.

— Brian Ferguson



Perry Aston explores after eating dinner.



The village of Thallichtenberg can be seen over Lichtenberg Castle's 800-year-old walls.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



Copenhagen's capital of cool

By MARK JOHANSON
Chicago Tribune

The Oxford Dictionary defines hygge as “a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment.” The Danish concept has become so popular that it made the dictionary’s word of the year shortlist in 2016.

I first discover the true meaning of hygge at La Banchina, a 16-seat farm-to-table pescatarian restaurant overlooking Copenhagen Harbor. Some in today’s lunch crowd are frolicking in the sea despite the near-freezing midwinter temperatures. Others are swirling glasses of natural wine as they peruse the three daily Nordic dishes scribbled in erasable marker on the back window — all of which will be cooked right in front of them so as to create a dialogue with the chef.

La Banchina embodies one of the defining characteristics of Danish culture, yet its setting is anything but cozy.

“When we opened in 2016, there was basically nothing in Refshaleoen,” La Banchina’s manager, Signe Norregaard, says of the neighborhood, which was, until recently, an industrial wasteland.

Refshaleoen (pronounced ref-say-loon) is less than 3 miles from the city center — a 15-minute bus ride from Copenhagen Central Station. But Norregaard, like most Copenhageners, had never ventured here growing up. She even had to look up directions the first time she came.

A good day at La Banchina in

Meet Refshaleoen, the trendiest neighborhood in Europe you’ve never heard of



2016 meant 20 guests. Now, this hygge-infused slice of warehouse-lined Refshaleoen regularly handles 400. Such is the skyrocketing appeal of the unlikely neighborhood as it emerges from the ashes of its industrial past to become Copenhagen’s new capital of cool.

Refshaleoen was, from 1872 to 1996, home to the shipyard of Burmeister & Wain, which at one point was Denmark’s largest employer. An icon of Danish industrial history, the area had been largely closed to the public until about six years ago, when it opened up and reinvented itself as one of Europe’s most innovative neighborhoods. Now, it’s a place for raging music festivals, top New Nordic restaurants and trailblazing displays of sustain-

able design.

La Banchina lies in the former waiting room of the old shipyard where workers would clock in for the day. The only new establishment that predates it in Refshaleoen is Amass, an American-owned restaurant in a graffiti-filled warehouse that offers multicourse degustation menus set to hip-hop.

Chef de cuisine Max Bogenmann shows me the 1,075-square-yard urban garden at Amass, where he sources between 15% and 25% of the produce, depending on the season. In the colder months, it might be brimming with cabbages, kales or swiss chards. Over the spring and summer months, you’ll find tomatoes, herbs and berries.

Having a space for a garden in



PHOTOS BY MARK JOHANSON, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Clockwise from top left: The iconic Copenhagen microbrewery Mikkeller has a tasting room along the waterfront in Refshaleoen. There is a sanctioned swimming zone right in front of La Banchina, making it a prime location for both summer and winter bathing. Expected to open this summer, Copenhagen Hill is a ski complex on top of a waste-to-energy plant. Broaden & Build is a new microbrewery that opened in January. Cozy La Banchina was one of the first establishments to open in the now-trendy neighborhood.

real estate-hungry Copenhagen was the reason they set up shop in Refshaleoen in 2013.

“It’s become very important to us over the last couple of years to try and become more conscious and responsible about the way we cook,” Bogenmann says.

Like its new neighbor Noma — which bagged the No. 1 slot on the World’s 50 Best Restaurants list four times before relocating to Refshaleoen last year — Amass champions localism and sustainability within the cooking industry. It opened a craft brewery in a warehouse across the street in January called Broaden & Build to “look at beer through a chef’s eyes.” Bogenmann says cooks use the offcuts from the restaurant for snacks, while the brews incor-

porate things such as fruit rinds and surplus herbs.

That same warehouse also houses a genre-defying alcohol company, Empirical Spirits, and a newly opened modern art gallery called Copenhagen Contemporary. Future tenants include madcap chef Rasmus Munk, who plans a five-hour-long dining experience spanning 50 small courses at his forthcoming restaurant Alchemist.

“Were you to ask me five years ago if I thought all food and drinks was moving out to Refshaleoen, I would have said certainly not. It wasn’t a place you came,” Empirical Spirits chief operating officer Ian Moore tells me. “But it happened, and it’s really cool.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

FROM PAGE 30

I sample a few bottles in Empirical Spirits' new tasting room — including Charlene McGee, a mesal-like juniper spirit inspired by the local culinary tradition of smoking — and follow it up with a much-needed pick-me-up coffee at the nearby artisanal bakery Lille.

I pass Urban Ranger Camp — where former B&W shipyard halls hold the world's highest indoor ropes course — en route to Refshaleoen's most talked about new feature: CopenHill. This waste-to-energy plant is capable of processing approximately 560,000 tons of waste annually to supply more than 72,000 apartments with heating and 30,000 with electricity.

As that wasn't impressive enough, the skyline-dominating geometric wedge will also have a ski slope and trail running course on its roof, as well as the world's tallest manmade climbing wall rising 279 feet up its side.

«When the government announced the design contest for the facility, one of the things they wanted was that at least 15% of the roof would be used by the citizens,” CopenHill's head of innovation Cecilie Nielsen says as we tour the site ahead of its summer opening. “BIG, the firm that won, was like ‘Why not 100%?’ So, they came up with this plan, which people thought was crazy.”

CopenHill remains fantastical-y outrageous. When complete, it will have a restaurant up top and an area for apres-ski down below, making it the closest thing you can get to a ski resort in the heart of a flat city.

I walk to the opposite side of this post-industrial playground just as the sun is plunging into the harbor. My destination is CopenHot, an oh-so-Scandinavian sauna complex on the neighborhood's northern edge.

CopenHot is a true Nordic wonderland with one sauna, two “sitting spaces” and a half-dozen hot tubs. Lit by billowing bonfires when I arrive, it's yet another hygge-infused place built for harnessing those prized Danish feelings of wellness and contentment.

I opt for a sailing hot spa, purely for the novelty of it. These boats that oscillating between the cold seawater and a sauna or spa is a trick Danes use to fight the depression of long winters.

“It's a free drug,” he explains. “The first time you do it, you're laughing nervously; the next time, you're addicted.”

I become hooked, as warned, dragging my numb limbs in and out of the frigid harbor, getting high on this free Danish drug.

We float alongside the shore as old warehouses glow under fairy lights for the Friday night crowd. It strikes me that, for such a gritty area, Refshaleoen has become improbably cozy.

What would those wizened shipbuilders think if they could see this place now?

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Finding Fiji — and each other

What could go wrong on a family trip to paradise? Not much, as it turns out

BY ANNE Z. COOKE
AND STEVE HAGGERTY
Tribune News Service

“You’re up early,” said Dillon, joining us at the breakfast table at Matamanoa Island Resort, in Fiji, piling his wet suit and swim fins on the chair where we’d be sure to see them. “Did Dad tell you? Blue sky, no wind, a perfect day for a shark dive?”

“You don’t mind being alone, do you?”

We were glad he cared. But no, we could never be lonely on Matamanoa Island, in the Mamanuca Archipelago, in the central South Pacific. If we needed company, the resorts’ other guests were on hand, not to mention our family, three generations of us on vacation together.

And there was the island to explore, a poster-perfect South Pacific hideaway. A limestone cone sticking up out of the sea, it was an encyclopedia of nature, from birds and fish, to an explosion of bright flowers and barefoot shade trees.

Walking carelessly along the shore, on the powdery soft sand, you’d see crabs digging holes, fish in the shallows and a trove of wave-tumbled sea shells and coral, washed up from deeper water.

Did we feel left behind, now that the kids were growing up? For a nanosecond, maybe. But in truth, it was nice to be alone, no longer in charge of organizing these annual family trips, or planning the days. We could swim, climb to the summit or read under an umbrella, as the moment dictated.

Our first family trip, more than a decade ago, was a last-minute idea, patched together on a whim. But adventuring together proved such a rewarding way to stay connected that it gradually became a tradition.

When the kids were toddlers, in St. Lucia, we built sand castles together while their parents slipped away for a sunset cruise. In Toronto, we played in the pool while the moms and dads enjoyed a candlelit dinner.

Dillon, now 20, was long past making sand castles. Like his cousins, he wanted to ski the moguls, fish in Alaska and climb Colorado’s “fourteeners.”

While he studied the menu, we stepped outside, bending an ear for the chirps and twitters overhead, and catching our breath as the sun peeked over the horizon.



Sending gold and amber rays across the water, it illuminated each nearby island, one after another.

With the night fading, a colony of fruit bats suddenly appeared above — like Halloween witches on their broomsticks — coming home to rest in the treetops. Circling overhead, their 5-foot wingspans catching the updrafts, they plopped down on the top-most branches, squawking and arguing.

“Look, they’re shoving each other,” said Dillon, joining us to peer up through the leaves. “Do you think they have a pecking order?” he said, as they folded their wings and gradually fell asleep. “Another 10 minutes and you wouldn’t know they were there.”

The bats, migratory visitors, were new for Dillon. But we’d spotted them before, in the Mamanucas and elsewhere on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, Fiji’s two largest islands. On our first Fiji trip, we did the tourist route: botanical gardens, visits to native villages, a day cruise on the Sigatoka River and snorkeling off the hotel beach.

And by the third visit we were ready for bigger stuff: rafting on the Upper Navua River, kayaking on the Luva River in the Namosi Highlands, hiking to waterfalls and climbing Mount Tomaniwi, in the Koro-yaniti National Heritage Park, at 4,344 feet, Fiji’s highest peak.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HAGGERTY/TNS

Above: West-facing deck chairs at the Sheraton Tokoriki Island Resort, on Fiji, are designed for sunset viewing. **Left:** The path to the Matamanoa Island Resort spa.

But a family trip to Fiji always seemed too far away, and too expensive. Until recently, that is, when a Fiji Airways promotion popped up in our email, advertising round-trip, nonstop tickets from Los Angeles to Nadi for about \$750 each, half off the regular price, an offer too generous to ignore.

Then, with everyone on board, the dates sorted and the tickets bought, we hit a snag. Most of the resorts we’d bragged about were overbooked. Castaway Island Resort, our all-time family favorite, had space for three nights. But we’d never been to Matamanoa or to the Sheraton Tokoriki, which did have space. We decided to take a chance.

The Fiji Airways overnight flight, 11 hours from LAX to Nadi, is painless. You have time to read, eat, watch a movie and then get a good night’s sleep. Departing shortly before midnight, it lands at 5 a.m. the next morning, but two days later on the calendar: you’ve crossed the international date line.

Hailing a couple of cabs, we headed for Denarau and the South Seas Ferry dock, where we bought tickets and ate breakfast while waiting to board the ferry. Once on board, we hustled up to the top and

KNOW & GO

More about Fiji online: fijitravel.com.
For more about the resorts:
Castaways Island Resort: castawayfiji.com
Matamanoa Island Resort: matamanoa.com
Sheraton Tokoriki Resort and Spa: marriott.com/hotels/travel/nanti-sheraton-resort-and-spa-tokoriki-island-fiji/
Ferry trips to the Mamanuca Islands: South Sea Cruises at ssc.com.fj

— Tribune News Service

found seats, the best place for views of the Mamanucas’ green islands and the world’s most beautiful peacock-blue water.

After an hour out and hundreds of selfies, son Paul, carrying his out-of-date Padi diving certificate, spoke up.

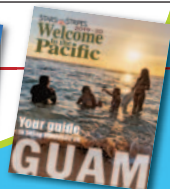
“You won’t mind, will you, if we go diving?” he said. “I’ll have to take a refresher course. And if Dillon wants to finish the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

FROM PAGE 32

course, we'll be diving every day. But you couldn't find a better place to do it. Look at this water, the visibility, it's like glass! And it's so calm!"

Two hours later, the ferry reached Castaway. Climbing out on the sand, we were thrilled to see that the staff was waiting, gathered to sing Isa Lei, the Fijian welcome song. We melted with joy. If they'd tried to sell us the island, we would have written a check. Our son, meanwhile, made a beeline for the dive shop, 20 feet away on the beach.

That evening, when we gathered for our first candlelit dinner in Castaway's inviting, newly designed restaurant overlooking the blue-green sea, Dillon, beaming with anticipation, announced that they'd all signed up for the dive course. If they were happy, we were happy.

We weren't sure what we'd find at Matamanoa, next on our itinerary, but it proved as marvelous as Castaway, just different. Catering to guests ages 16 and older, people who come every year, Matamanoa reminded us of a private club, where everyone knows everyone else and we'd been invited to join.

The cocktail hour began on time and was followed by a single dinner seating, with everyone served at once. The ocean-view "villas" were inviting, and the elegant new hilltop suites were the latest in comfort, privacy and spectacular views. Meanwhile, Dillon and the cousins headed straight for the dive shop for the next round of lessons.

Our last island resort, the Sheraton Tokoriki, surprised us. We'd expected a hotel, but we were relieved to find a long, low modern building, with an office, gift shop, several dining rooms and a beautiful pool, all overlooking a long beach. The bures, some with plunge pools, formed a small village. The property, swept clean in 2016 by Cyclone Winston, looked bare, and recently planted bushes and trees were still small. But the dining areas were open all day and the pool deck, looking over the ocean, was our meeting place after the dive boat — and the divers — returned.

On our last day, sad to be leaving, we went for one last ocean swim, walking out to a sandy spot where everyone hung out, splashing and bobbing about, wallowing in their delicious warm water, like a giant bathtub. For an hour we bobbed up and down, talking, remembering each day what we'd seen and laughing over the funny things we'd done.

When we close our eyes right now, we can feel it all over again.



PHOTOS BY AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

All vegetables sold at Green Leaf in Yomitan, Okinawa, are from farms that the store's owner had visited to ensure their quality and adherence to guidelines on organic farming.

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

When the new year rolls around, many swear off junk food, resolve to lose weight or promise themselves, "I will eat healthier starting today!" This resolve might, or might not, survive the winter months.

When my body screams for something healthy on Okinawa, I turn to Green Leaf store and cafe in Yomitan, a village well known for its purple sweet potato, pottery and snorkeling at nearby Cape Maeda.

Vegans and vegetarians be especially pleased at Green Leaf's lunch options.

On a recent visit, I took my daughter along because she loves vegetables. All the vegetables sold at Green Leaf are from farms that owner Ryoichi Uechi had visited to ensure their quality and adherence to guidelines on organic farming.

Quality control at Green Leaf goes beyond the vegetables. Meats, eggs, nuts, quinoa, rice, snacks, fruits and more are carefully hand-selected. They do not contain any monosodium glutamate (or MSG, a common flavor enhancer in processed foods) or other additives; the meat comes from free-range animals not treated with hormones.

The cafe offers bagel sandwiches (ham, smoked salmon, tempeh and vegan tuna) from 980 yen (about \$9); additive-free hot dogs served on whole-wheat buns for 1,080 yen; salad bowls (beauty, detox, energy and

CAFE GREEN LEAF

Location: 224-17 Senaha, Yomitan
Okinawa 904-0325

Hours: Open daily, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Prices: Most lunch items cost less than 1,000 yen.

Dress: Casual
Information: 098-923-3870; Online: greenleafoods.com/yomitan. Free parking is available.

—Aya Ichihashi

customized) for 980 yen; my favorite, the Buddha bowl, 1,180 yen; and soy taco rice for 980 yen. These are lunchtime prices.

My daughter chose the molokhia noodle salad for 880 yen and I chose the Buddha bowl. My bowl arrived with organic whole grain rice (Japanese brown rice, or genmai) on the bottom, and topped with leafy organic vegetables, paprika peppers, dates, quinoa, walnuts, shredded carrots and cubed tempeh. The bowl was delicious yet filling, and I felt great after finishing it.

I usually don't eat whole grain rice because it takes more steps to cook compared to white rice, and it is not as tasty. But the whole grain rice at Green Leaf is delicious and just right with leafy vegetables and tempeh.

Tempeh is made with soy and is a great

meat substitute. I've had tempeh before, but it wasn't as tasty as the tempeh at Green Leaf. The pepper slices, walnuts and quinoa add crunchiness to offset the sweet and chewy dates, and I kept eating until I saw the bottom of the bowl.

Usually I feel heavy, tired and sleepy after eating, but a Buddha bowl doesn't make me feel that way. It left me feeling energized, and as if I had done my body a favor.

My daughter enjoyed her molokhia noodle salad topped with organic leafy vegetables, carrots, dates and pine nuts drizzled with peanut-ginger dressing. I had a bite and it was very refreshing.

On a hot summer day, that dish will be perfect. The molokhia noodle matches perfectly with the dressing and crunchy vegetables. You can also try their smoothies (from 580 yen) and an organic bagel with cream cheese (or soy cream cheese) to munch in the car if you miss the 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. lunchtime.

After the meal, I usually browse around at the Green Leaf store next door to buy some healthy snacks. I got roasted organic hazelnuts, pumpkin seeds, pine nuts and quinoa to add to my salad at home. I also got dried fruit and a cup of fresh peanut butter.

I highly recommend the peanut butter. Just fill a cup with freshly ground peanuts (1 ounce is about \$1), and use it as a vegetable dip or spread it on morning toast. Delicious.

ichihashi.aya@stripes.com



Green Leaf's molokhia noodle salad features organic leafy vegetables, carrots, dates and pine nuts drizzled with peanut-ginger dressing.



Green Leaf's Buddha bowl starts with a base of Japanese brown rice, or genmai.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Water parks and pools in Japan and Okinawa

Japan

TOSHIMAEN SWIMMING POOL (Tokyo): Through Sept. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed July 1-5; Aug. 8-12 and Sept. 2-6. This outdoor water park features "Hydropolis," a huge complex of water slides and tubes; 4,500 yen for adults, 3,500 yen for children A (110 cm or higher), 2,900 yen for children B (under 110 cm); no tattoos allowed; Oedo Line from Shinjuku to Toshimaen Station; 03-3990-8800; Online: www.toshimaen.co.jp/pool/

TOKYO SUMMERLAND (Tokyo): Through Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The outdoor water park has various swimming pools, slides and tubes, waterfalls and more in a tropical atmosphere; 4,500 yen for adults, 3,000 yen for ages 6+, 2,000 yen for over 61 and under 2 (3,600 yen for adults, 2,100 yen for children after 3 p.m.); no tattoos allowed; Route 411 (0.5 km) from Akiruno I.C., Ken-0-Do Express; 042-558-6511; Online: summerland.co.jp/english

YOMIURI LAND, POOL WAI (Tokyo): Through Sept. 16. The pool WAI has five pool areas and three types of water slides. One of the most thrilling water slides is the "Giant Sky River," a huge complex of water slides; 3,200 yen for ages 18-64, 2,500 yen for junior high and high school students, 2,100 yen for 3 years old to elementary school children; no tattoos allowed; 10 minutes Odakyu bus ride from Yomiuri Land Mae Station, Odakyu Line or 5 km from Chofu I.C., Chuo Expressway; 044-966-1111; Night pool event and premium beer garden is also available. Online: yomiuriland.com

NISSAN WATER PARK AT SHIN YOKOHAMA PARK (Kanagawa): Through Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., closed on third Tuesdays; Enjoy 22 different swimming pools, including slides, wave pools, whirlpools and more; 500 yen for ages 13 and older per hour, 250 yen up to age 12 per hour; Tattoo-friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); a 15-minute walk from JR Shin Yokohama Station or a 7-minute walk from Kokuzue Station JR Yokohama Line; 045-477-5040; Online: nissan-stadium.jp/shinyoko-park/waterpark

OISO LONG BEACH (Kanagawa): Through Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Prince Hotel's swimming pools are located along the coast of Sagami Bay; 4,000 yen for adults, 2,800 yen for ages 13-18, 2,200 yen for ages 7-12, 1,000 yen for ages 3-6; no tattoos allowed; free shuttle available from Oiso Station JR Tokaido Line; 0463-61-1111; Online: www2.princehotels.co.jp/oiso

YOKOHAMA POOL CENTER (Kanagawa): Through Sept. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Children's pool and round whirlpool are available; 800 yen for adults, 200 yen for ages 3-15; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 8 minutes walk from Negishi Station JR Negishi Line; 045-761-1948; Online: yspc.or.jp/yokohama p. ysc

TSUJIDO JUMBO SWIMMING POOL (Kanagawa): Through Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Located along the coastline in Tsujido; outdoor pool has water slide, water-flow, waterfalls and children's pool and wave pool; 830 yen for adults, 520 yen for ages 13-15, 450 yen for ages 7-12; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 10-minute walk from Tsujido Kaihin Koen Iriguchi bus stop after taking a bus at JR Tsujido Station; 0466-34-0011; Online: kanagawa-park.or.jp/tujido/pool.html

KODOMOJON KUNI SWIMMING POOL (Okinawa/Tokyo): Through Sept. 1, closed July 16-19 and every Wednesday except Aug. 14; Water slides and tubes,



Courtesy of Yomiuri Land

Visitors to Tokyo's Yomiuri Land use the slalom slide (foreground) and wave pool. Yomiuri Land is open through Sept. 16.

children's pool are available; 1,100 yen for adults, 450 yen for ages 7-15, 350 yen for ages 3-6; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); Odakyu bus from Tsurukawa Station, Odakyu Line to bus stop Kodomono Kuni; 045-961-2111; Online: kodomonokuni.org/english

SEIBU-EN SWIMMING POOL (Saitama): Through Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Sept. 4, 5; The outdoor facility has water slides, wave pools, floating pools and a children's pool; 2,500 yen for adults, 1,500 yen for ages 3-12; no tattoos allowed; Kokubunji Station, Seibu Line to Seibu Yuenchi Station; 04-2922-1371; Online: seibu-leisure.co.jp/guide/pool2019/index.html

SHOWA KINEN PARK RAINBOW POOL (Tokyo): Through Sept. 1, closed July 19; The park has nine types of pools, a cycling course and a BBQ garden; 2,500 yen for adults, 1,400 yen for ages 7-15, 500 yen for ages 4-6; no tattoos allowed; 2 minutes from Nishi Tachikawa Station, JR Ome Line; 042-528-1751; Online: showakinen-koen.jp/access

TOBU SUPER POOL (Saitama): Through Sept. 1 and the following weekend, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; The outdoor water park has two water slides, called "Super Slider" and "Tiger Splash"; children's pool and whirlpool are also available; 2,400 yen for adults, 1,100 yen for 3 and older; no tattoos allowed; 7 km from Kuki I.C., Toboku Express; 0480-93-1200; Online: tobuzoo.com/global/english

INAGE KAIHIN KOEN POOL (Chiba): Through Sept. 1; Water slides are unavailable this year due to repair; 1,100 yen for adults, 800 yen for ages 16-18, 400 yen for ages 7-15, 200 yen for ages 4+; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 3.75 mile (6 km) via Route 357 from Wangan Chiba I.C., Higashi Kanto Express; 043-247-2771; Online: chibacity-ta.or.jp/events/event/inagenohama-kaihinkouenpool

KYODO NO MORI SOGO POOL (Tokyo): Through Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Aug. 6 and 24-25; Outdoor swimming pools as well as water-flow pool, kids pool and slides; 300 yen for adults,

200 yen for ages 16-18, 100 yen for under 15; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 2-minute walk from Kyodo-no Mori Sogo Taikukan Bus Stop after taking a bus from Fuchu on Keio Line; 042-363-8111; www.city.fuchu.tokyo.jp/shisetu/suportu/puru/sogoru-ru.html

AQUA PARADISE PATIO (Saitama): Open year-round, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Opens at 9 a.m., July 20-Aug. 31), closed Tuesdays, except in July and August; Indoor amusement park has a variety of swimming pools including slides, whirlpool, kids' area, wave, sauna and Jacuzzi; 1,000 yen for adults, 500 yen for children; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); a 15-minute drive from Hanazono I.C. on Kanetsu Express; 048-574-5000; Online: patio.or.jp/patio

KAWAGOE AQUATIC PARK (Saitama): Through Sept. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; The park's nine pools include the aqua snake rider, slides, whirlpool and kids' pool; 1,720 yen for adults, 210 yen for ages 7-12; no tattoos allowed; 15-minute walk from JR Nishi-Kawagoe Station or 3 km from the intersection of Wakita Shinmachi on Route 16; 049-241-2241; Online: www.parks.or.jp/kawagoesuigo/pool/index.html

MIZU NO OUOKU (WATER KINGDOM) IN HUIS TEN BOSCH (Nagasaki): Through Sept. 8; three types of pools; admission fees vary; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 0570-064-1100; Online: english.huisitenbosch.co.jp

Okinawa

RECREATION POOL: Through Aug. 31 and weekends in September; 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Tuesdays; Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park features outdoor pools with slide and kids' pool; 860 yen for adults, 310 yen for ages 6-18, 100 yen for ages 3-5; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 3 miles east from Kitanagusu I.C. on Okinawa Express; 098-932-5114; Online: okinawa-kenso.com/page_id=160

MAJUNLAND SWIMMING POOL: Open year-round, 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; closed second Tuesdays. This indoor facility



Courtesy of Sumida Ward

Tokyo's Sumida River Fireworks.

Check online for fireworks near you at stripes.com/go/fireworks2019



provides nine types of pools including mist sauna and Jacuzzi; 1,040 yen for adults, 520 yen for school-aged, free for under 6; no tattoos allowed; 40-minute ride from Naha airport or 10-minute ride from Nishihara I.C. on Okinawa Express; 098-9424132; Online: majunland.com

NAGO CITY B & OCEAN CENTER POOL: Year-round, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., closed every Tuesday. This indoor heated swimming pools features 25m, kids area Jacuzzi and accessible outdoor poolside terrace; 430 yen for adult, 270 yen for under 18; Tattoo friendly (need to cover by rash guard or bandage); 10-minute ride from Kyoda I.C. on Okinawa Express; 0980-54-1082; Online: nago-pool.jp

FACES

McCartney adapting 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Paul McCartney is writing his first stage musical, an adaptation of the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

The former Beatle is collaborating with "Billy Elliot" playwright Lee Hall and West End producer Bill Kenwright.

McCartney said he'd never considered writing a musical, but after meeting Kenwright and Hall three years ago, "I found myself thinking this could be interesting and fun."

Hall said McCartney's "wit, emotional honesty and melodic brilliance brings a whole new depth and breadth to the classic tale."

Frank Capra's 1946 film tells the story of George Bailey, a small-town banker wracked with regret who is shown the value of his life by a guardian angel.

Producers said Thursday they are aiming for a late 2020 launch for the show. Its dates and venue have not been released.

Author Laura Lippman has 5-book deal

Prize-winning crime novelist Laura Lippman has several new books planned, not all of them fiction.

Lippman has reached a five-book deal with her current publisher, William Morrow. The deal, announced Thursday, includes three novels, a short story collection and a book of personal essays, her first-ever nonfiction release. Lippman said in a statement that her longtime editor, Carrie Feron, had seen the "potential" of an essay collection, something she hadn't thought of herself.

Lippman is known for her Baltimore-based Tess Monaghan series and for such standalone novels as "Every Secret Thing," adapted into a movie starring Diane Lane and Elizabeth Banks. She won an Edgar Award for her Monaghan novel "Charm City," published in 1997.



Cast members of "It: Chapter Two" speak at a Comic-Con event July 17 in San Diego, Calif.

'Born to play Pennywise'

Cast of 'It: Chapter Two' discusses Skarsgard's acting, 'record' amounts of fake blood at Comic-Con event

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

"It: Chapter Two" is not taking it easy on the grown losers' club if the new trailer is any indication, and the shoot itself doesn't sound much calmer than battling a demonic clown, either.

A theater of fans got a sneak peek at the latest promo for the horror sequel at a Comic-Con event Wednesday night in San Diego before it's released to the world Thursday morning.

Cast including James McAvoy, Bill Hader and Jessica Chastain were also on hand to tease three chilling extended scenes that had the audience gasping, laughing and cheering. They described the intensity of the shoot with director Andy Muschietti, who wouldn't quit until he got the perfect shot.

Chastain recalled doing a scene with blood. She wasn't supposed to get any on her face, but she protested and said, "No, let's make it 'Carrie' on steroids." Later, "freezing and very uncomfortable" in a kiddie pool covered with the fake blood, she may have regretted her choice.

They said, laughing, that throughout film-

ing they used a "record" amount of fake blood — 4,500 gallons, according to Chastain.

McAvoy also talked about filming a particularly hair-raising scene in a hall of mirrors that he said was "like a nightmare ... absolutely horrific. There was no fun in it."

And all marveled at Bill Skarsgard's ability to transform into Pennywise the clown.

"He's super imposing in the costume," Bill Hader said. "He's a super nice guy but then when they say 'Action,' it's like a whole other being."

According to the cast, the "eye trick" Pennywise does where one eye is looking straight and the other goes off to the side is not computer-generated; it's just something Skarsgard is able to do.

"It's like he was born to play Pennywise," Hader said.

Conan O'Brien moderated the late night ScareDiego event put on by Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema and pleaded with the audience not to record any of the footage.

The film opens nationwide on Sept. 6.

Comic-Con's main events were to begin Thursday at the San Diego Convention Center.

Yet another 'Old Town Road' remix has Area 51-themed video

By TERRY NGUYEN
The Washington Post

Lil Nas X has released his third "Old Town Road" remix, and odds are it won't be his last.

The video to this latest track, which was uploaded Tuesday on YouTube (online at youtu.be/aA7xDP9sQzk), is a cartoon take on Area 51, a meme-turned-potential national security threat, setting up the clip for viral attention — something the 20-year-old Atlanta rapper is a master at. You can't escape the soft banjo twangs or head-bopping trap beat of the single, this year's summer anthem, now dominating the Billboard Hot 100 for the 15th week.

Now Lil Nas X is on a remix craze — striving to keep up with the momentum his breakout song continues to offer.

So far, the rapper has three remixes of the song, including the version that he rode to superstardom alongside none other than OG country star Billy Ray Cyrus — a collaboration inspired by Billboard removing "Old Town Road" from its country music charts in April for not having enough elements of country.

DJ and producer Diplo was recruited in late April to add a funky EDM beat to the track, which was performed at Stargate's Festival. Lil Nas X's latest features yodeling wunderkind Mason Ramsey (yes, the kid who went viral for yodeling in Walmart) and fellow Atlanta rapper Young Thug. The accompanying music video is a chaotic animation of the four artists storming Area 51, which cleverly reflected the latest internet trend as much as it is a marketing play for his debut EP "7." Each remix also has its own galloping horse artwork, with each artist represented as a different-colored horse. (Lil Nas X is the original black stallion.)

On Tuesday, Lil Wayne confirmed in an interview with XXL Mag that he recorded an official "Old Town Road" remix, but he wasn't sure where it was in the production and release process. And on Twitter, Lil Nas X has entertained the idea of even more remixes. He suggested bringing on Dolly Parton, as well as rapper Megan Thee Stallion.

But why so many remixes? After all, there are only a handful of ways a single can be redone untainted. "Old Town Road" has evolved from its internet roots — a rap-infused country song that TikTok users edited over silly videos — to a radio banger. And it seems like audiences keep wanting more.

The new remixes slightly deviate from Lil Nas X's original. His alluring drawl and unforgettable verses remain intact, although edited with a faster electronic beat or supplemented with another artist's vocals. But it matters little whom he features; his fans seem simply delighted that there is another track to play incessantly on loop this summer.

'Lion King' composer Zimmer circles back for remake

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Composer Hans Zimmer can't seem to get away from "The Lion King."

The award-winning composer has gotten him jobs, his only Oscar and secured him a place in the hearts of children and adults. But he wasn't sure he wanted to come back when Jon Favreau approached him to revisit the soundtrack for his technologically advanced reimaging of the animated film, now in theaters.

"I'm always the one saying no to everything," Zimmer, 61, said. "I suppose I'm the reluctant bride."

He only agreed to do "The Lion King" a quarter of a century ago because of his daughter. She was 6 at the time, and his movies at that point weren't exactly child-friendly.

He had one stipulation: That it wasn't going to be a musical.

"I said I don't want to do a musical; I hate musicals," Zimmer said. "And they said, 'we'll guarantee you this will not become a musical ever.' How it ended up that way is 'another story.'"

But it's not the only way "The Lion King" diverged from his expectations. What he thought was going to be a "nice cartoon"

turned into something much darker. The story about a young prince who loses his father hit a nerve for Zimmer, who also lost his father at a young age.

"All that stuff that one had to manage to cover up so well, I had to go and open up and actually write from that point," Zimmer said. "I had to write what it felt like to be a little boy who loses his father."

And yet Zimmer is always somewhat surprised to find that people have such a connection to it. Terrence Malick approached him for "The Thin Red Line," which would earn him another Oscar nomination, because of "The Lion King."

He remembers being at a dinner with Malick, Werner Herzog and others and overhearing the filmmakers passionately arguing about which piece in "The Lion King" they prefer.

"I'm going, they're talking about a kids' movie," Zimmer said, still slightly baffled and amused. "Terry Malick and Werner Herzog arguing about 'The Lion King'!"

And when Pharrell Williams convinced Zimmer to play at Coachella in 2017, he said



Zimmer

fine, but that, "The one thing we're not going to do is 'The Lion King.'"

A 23-year-old member of his band told him to get over himself. "It's the soundtrack of my generation," the young man declared. Zimmer conceded and had a bit of a revelation in the desert.

"I look out throughout the shambles of a field with all these people and see grown men and women truly touched and I'm realizing it's not because it's sentimental but because it's emotional, it's the truth, and my band is playing every note with total conviction," Zimmer said.

That was the convincing he needed.

Zimmer got to do something special this time around. He recorded with a live audience at The Barbra Streisand Scoring Stage where they've recorded everything from "Gone With the Wind" and "Lawrence of Arabia" to "E.T." and the most recent Star Wars films.

"I had 102 people in the orchestra and the band. And then I put 20 chairs upfront for the filmmakers who made the movie who actually never get to come to the recording sessions," Zimmer said with a smile. "It's the circle of life, or completing a circle or whatever. The Force is strong on this!"

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Atlantic Records



By MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

Ed Sheeran's new album grew out of the fact that he really didn't need any more alone time.

Arguably the most successful male pop star in the world, Sheeran nonetheless tours like a lonely street busker, with just his guitar and a digital looping pedal to accompany his voice, even when he's selling out multiple nights at gigantic stadiums like London's Wembley.

So when the 28-year-old English singer began work on his follow-up to 2017's Grammy-winning "÷," he figured it might be nice to have someone to talk to for a change.

"It was kind of informal," said Ed Howard, managing director of Sheeran's U.K. label, Asylum, who oversees the making of his records along with Atlantic U.K. president Ben Cook. "He's on tour and somebody he loves comes through to see the show — maybe they end up writing a song together.

"Obviously, Ed can write songs on his own. But it's just more fun to do it with other people."

REVIEW

If anything, Ed Sheeran's new album does two things. It lets him show off his tremendous range, and it lets him show off his impressive Rolodex.

A stunning who's who of music's top stars — including Cardi B, Justin Bieber, Travis Scott, Khalid, Eminem and Bruno Mars — appear on "No. 6 Collaborations Project." The result is an understandably scattershot of styles — G-Funk, grime, trap, R&B, tropical hip-hop, ballads, hair metal — but what knits it together is an impossibly high level of songwriting and an undeniable joy.

Sheeran seems to revel in playing with Migos effects (Skrrt!), rap with Eminem, sing in front of a horn section and be on a track with Cardi B purring "Okumrr."

The title of the 15-track project is a nod to his 2011 "No. 5 Collaborations Project," which saw Sheeran team up with U.K. rappers. This time, he welcomes everyone from H.E.R. to Paulo Londra, an artist from Argentina. If listeners go on to explore some of the lesser-known collaborators — like the brilliant rapper Dave — then everyone wins.

Standouts include "Cross Me" with Chance the Rapper and PnB Rock, "Take Me Back to London" with Stormzy and "Beautiful People" with Khalid.

Despite all the collaborations, there are little touches that remind you it's a Sheeran album. He's still got that sad-sack, lovable misfit thing going on, despite earning acclaim and millions of bucks. Two songs — "Beautiful People" and "I Don't Care" with Bieber — have Sheeran at a party where he feels he doesn't belong. "I always feel like I'm nobody," he sings.

One thing that has changed is that marriage seems to agree with Sheeran. If in the past, he was creeping a little in an ex's DMs, the newly wed Sheeran has created an album awash with love messages to his wife. "I'm stickin' with my baby, for sure,"



Ed Sheeran

No. 6 Collaborations Project
(Atlantic)

he sings on "Cross Me." On "Put It All on Me," he admits: "Having my woman there is good for my soul." Missing home is a continual theme.

He does get frisky for someone not Mrs. Ed Sheeran on another fun track, "South of the Border," a kind of U.S. cousin to his "Galway Girl." He and Camila Cabello celebrate a lass with "brown eyes, caramel thighs" who makes him cry out (OK, a little cringingly) "te amo, mami." Finally, Cardi B storms in to play up the double entendre of the title and announce: "I think that Ed got a lil' jungle fever."

A few of the guests elevate some songs — Stormzy and YEBBA, among them — but there are a few underwhelming tracks, including the Sheeran-Ella Mai union on "Put It All on Me" and the Bieber song.

For the last track, Sheeran, Mars and Chris Stapleton — just take a moment to wrap your head around that stunning trio — get into a Led Zeppelin groove with "Blow," a head-banger awash in sexual imagery. "Pull my trigger / Let me blow your mind."

Too late. Our mind was blown a few tracks ago.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

If that casual process suggests a collection of larks, think again. On "No. 6 Collaborations Project," released July 12, Sheeran convenes some of pop's biggest names — including Cardi B, Justin Bieber, Travis Scott, Eminem and Bruno Mars — for an album as precisely rendered as any Sheeran has made.

The result, in no small part, is a flex: a demonstration of whom Sheeran can get in the studio (and bumps into backstage). But it's also meant to showcase the widening creative scope of a one-time folkie who's come a long way since his teenage days worshipping Damien Rice.

There's Caribbean-accented dance-pop, glowing R&B balladry, even a Sunset Strip hair-metal jam — enough variety to lead Howard to say, "I don't think there's anybody else in the world that could make credible music with this range of artists in this many styles."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

WEEKEND: MUSIC

FROM PAGE 36

As Howard notes, “No. 6 Collaborations Project” started taking shape during Sheeran’s global tour behind “+,” which Billboard identified as the highest-grossing road show of 2018, with ticket sales of \$429 million. (The new album’s title calls back to “No. 5 Collaborations Project,” a 2011 EP on which Sheeran, a lover of hip-hop — and an occasional rapper — long before now, recruited grime MCs such as Wiley and Sway.)

According to Cook, the singer was itching to release new music but wanted to work outside the pattern he’d set with the chart-topping “+” and his previous two solo albums, 2014’s “x” and his double-platinum 2011 debut, “+.” That he was “bouncing across the world,” as Cook put it, lent itself to the record’s hit-and-run approach.

In South America he got turned on to Paulo Londra, a young Latin trap phenom from Argentina, who guests on the track “Nothing on You.” In Nashville he and Chris Stapleton, the burly country singer, got the ball rolling on a song that eventually became the hard-rocking “Blow,” which also features Mars. (Sheeran’s original idea for the similarly flexible Mars, Cook said, was “this kind of ‘Lady Marmalade’” that would have teamed the two with Bieber, who instead ended up dueting with Sheeran on the album’s lead single, “I Don’t Care.”)

Skrillex was one artist Sheeran was especially eager to work with, according to Howard, who said, “Ed loves pure old-school dubstep mixed with songwriting and guitars”; the EDM star made “Way to Break My Heart” with Sheeran and also co-produced “Take Me Back to London,” featuring British rapper Stormzy.

“Best Part of Me,” a duet with up-and-coming soul singer Yebba, is an outlier on “No. 6” — “more of a traditional Ed Sheeran song,” as Howard said, with a plucked acoustic guitar and a lyric about a guy whose “hair is thinning, falling out of all the wrong places.” But its inclusion reflects Sheeran’s understanding that what he’s selling isn’t merely the sounds of the moment; he knows how powerfully he combines his awkward relatability with his savant-level skills.

Other featured guests include Ella Mai, Camila Cabello, H.E.R., 50 Cent, Meek Mill, Young Thug and Khalid, the last of whom helps open the album with the pulsating “Beautiful People.” It’s not the only tune here in which Sheeran — who gives a slyly funny performance as a version of himself in Danny Boyle’s new movie, “Yesterday” — describes feeling anxious about the way celebrity can sand down a person’s idiosyncrasies.

Asked about his aspirations for “No. 6,” Howard said he hopes that, with “so much noise around Ed,” the album refocuses attention on the singer’s music. Yet Cook was clear about his desire to reach new audiences — fans of Latin pop, for instance, who might be attracted by Londra’s participation. The label president happily pointed out that “Blow” was also getting played on rock radio stations, a first for Sheeran, who typically dominates Top 40 and Hot AC playlists.

And what about supporting the record on the road? Little about “No. 6,” with its varied textures and many moving parts, would seem to lend itself to the stripped-down style of Sheeran’s concerts. Cook said the singer himself, who has dates scheduled in Europe through the end of August, said the same thing about “Shape of You,” his sleeky club track from 2017.

“Then, lo and behold, he produces this incredible arrangement for the show,” Cook said. “So I don’t know how he’ll do it. But he’ll find a way.”



Success has Malaysians rapper Bunga dreaming of music

By JUVON PARK
Associated Press

One of the few Malaysian female rappers, Bunga says she at first didn’t consider a career in music.

“My initial dream was to be a politician or a lawyer,” the 19-year-old rapper told The Associated Press before her first performance in Singapore for the Malay arts festival “Pesta Raya” in late June.

Her success has her changing her tune.

Bunga, whose real name is Noor Ayu Fatini Mohd Bakhari, is one of the only known rappers who wears a hijab and baju kurung, a traditional Malay dress, at her performances. Selfies on her Instagram account show her wearing various shades of hijab, but she didn’t start that way.

From Perak, the fourth-largest state in Malaysia, she became popular after a video of her performing in baju kurung in a local rap competition went viral in November. “When I reached the venue, I was wearing regular clothes,” Bunga said.

But even though she was the only female at the event, she did not stand out. “At the very last minute, I bought myself a baju kurung at the venue itself.”

Her popularity soared earlier this year when she was invited to rap at the cypher show “16 Bars” that takes place in a barbershop. The show features up-and-coming talents from around Southeast Asia.

Bunga raps about her own personal life, her experiences of being bullied, facing love and working at a gadget shop. She also gives advice to girls through her rap. She steers clear of obscenity and

racism. “(Being a female rapper) doesn’t mean I have to act like boys or talk about gangsters,” Bunga said.

But rapping in traditional garments comes with its own challenges. “We can’t jump around so much wearing baju kurung,” said Bunga. Another challenge is facing criticism. Bunga said she has been criticized for “bringing down the image of women” by rapping in a hijab.

Bunga said she is not deterred and she is “living proof” that women can make it in male-dominated rap. “I’ve realized that there are more hijabis who want to rap. I think that’s a good thing because you shouldn’t worry about what others say.”

Now based in Kuala Lumpur, Bunga is dreaming big. “I want to make a lot of songs. I want to go on tours. I want to release albums. I want to go worldwide.”

Bunga performs at Pesta Raya festival in Singapore on June 29. Bunga, whose real name is Noor Ayu Fatini Mohd Bakhari, is one of the only known rappers who wears a hijab and baju kurung, a traditional Malay dress, at her performances.

WAN HAMID/AP

K.Flay celebrates all her sides on new album

It’s always been hard to pin down K.Flay’s music. She’s a bit of a sonic chameleon, mixing elements of hip-hop, rock and indie pop with moods that go from brash to introspective. You’ll get no clear answers after listening to her new album “Solutions” — thankfully.

K.Flay, the stage name of Kristine Flaherty, starts her third studio album with the wonderfully autobiographical “I Like Myself (Most of the Time)” and ends with a wistful tune about her father, “DNA.” In between, we get to celebrate all the gloriously different sides of an artist who resists getting boxed up in one genre.



K.Flay
Solutions
(Night Street
Records/Interscope)

There’s The B-52-ish “This Baby Don’t Cry” and the Lorde-adjacent “Bad Vibes.” She channels Weezer on the environmentally conscious “Not in California” and practically raps on “Good News.” Her thrilling vocals range from babyish to Joan Jett-ish.

K.Flay, whose biggest hit to date is her 2017 “Blood in the Cut,” got a song on the TV show “Riverdale” and has been featured on songs by X Ambassadors, Tom Morello and Mike Shinoda.

Imagine Dragons’ frontman Dan Reynolds is also a fan. He invited her to open for the Dragons on tour and signed her to his

Interscope-distributed label. (He gets a co-writing credit on her “This Baby Don’t Cry.”)

“Solutions” reveals a woman unbowed by social pressure, angry over adulthood’s lies and aware of her insecurities but not defined by them. She mocks overly posed Instagram photos, calls out fakers and is modest about her goals:

“Everybody wants to control their calories and money and their likes/ Baby, my job is just to rhyme/ And I’m fine with that,” she sings on the opening song.

OK, but count us as a like.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Out of this world

Do you love astronaut-themed science fiction? Here is a list of beloved books of that genre

FICTION

'Binti: The Complete Trilogy'

Nnedi Okorafor

When Binti becomes the first of the Himba people to join the ranks of students at the prestigious Oomza University in space, she leaves Earth behind and herself thrown into the center of a generations-long war between the university and an alien race known as the Meduse. This three-book series follows Binti and her unlikely allies as she balances the culture she came from and the future she represents.

'The Calculating Stars'

Mary Robinette Kowal

An alternate-history novel set in the early '50s. The premise? A giant meteorite smashes into Washington, D.C., in 1952 and accelerates the need for humans to find another planet to live on. Dr. Elma York is a World War II veteran who flew planes as a WASP. She also happens to be a math genius and one of NASA's human computers, and she decides she wants to be an astronaut. The novel explores what might have happened if women were allowed in the astronaut corps early in the space race, and it also touches on the civil-rights movement and struggles faced by African Americans in that time period.

'The Fated Sky'

Mary Robinette Kowal



In this sequel to "The Calculating Stars," mankind has managed to reach the moon and has now set its sights on establishing a human colony on Mars—in 1961. Dr. Elma York—otherwise known as "The Lady Astronaut"—is hoping to get chosen for the Mars mission, but torn between her professional ambitions and her personal life. Once again, Kowal does not fail to pull in the social environment of the early '60s, and the tensions resulting from the civil-rights movement and South Africa's apartheid are woven into the narrative.

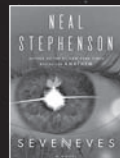
'The Wanderers'

Meg Howrey

This is character-driven literary science fiction at its finest, and it examines how humans will deal with the challenges of long missions of space exploration. "The Wanderers" follows three astronauts through a 17-month training simulation for a Mars mission, and through them gets at the question of what drives humanity's need to explore. But the narrative also pulls in the families of the astronauts, and we see the strain that the long separation puts on them.

'Seventheves'

Neal Stephenson



What would we do if we knew the world was about to be destroyed by "hard rain" that will fall for 5,000 years? That's the premise of this science-fiction saga by a Seattle novelist who's one of the masters of the genre. As Seattle Times reviewer Nisi Shawl wrote in 2015, "Stephenson's storytelling style combines the conversational and the panoramic, allowing him to turn his piercing

gaze on the familiar aspects of a strange future, encompassing the barely

conceivable detail by detail, striking vista by sweat-covered heroic gambit, and telling us how it might be possible to regain what we could so easily lose in so many heartbreaking ways."

'The Three-Body Problem' (series)

Cixin Liu

President Barack Obama called it "just wildly imaginative, really interesting." Amazon reportedly may spend up to \$1 billion acquiring the rights to produce a three-season TV show based on the Hugo Award-winning series. There's a reason the first installment in this trilogy was the first Asian novel ever to win a Hugo Award. The series, based in China, chronicles the existential crisis that grips all of humanity when it encounters an extraterrestrial civilization bent on taking over Earth. But the alien armada won't arrive for another 400 years, leaving humans plenty of time to bicker over how best to prepare for the eventual space battle.

'The Expanse' (series)

James S.A. Corey

This eight-novel series also inspired a TV series. The first novel is "Leviathan Wakes." Both the books and TV shows are wonderful for their realistic depictions of working and traveling in space. The summary: In a world in which humanity has colonized most of the solar system, tensions build between Earth, Mars and the outer planets, and then alien tech comes into the picture.

'Stories of Your Life and Others'

Ted Chiang

"Stories of Your Life" was adapted to the big screen as the movie "Arrival," featuring a fearless Amy Adams as Dr. Louise Banks, a linguist charged with finding a way to communicate with Earth's new alien arrivals. But this isn't your everyday alien encounter story. It incorporates sophisticated concepts of physics, language and time, and wrestles with free will.

NONFICTION

'Packing for Mars'

Mary Roach



Mary Roach is the queen of taking scientific subjects and turning them into witty prose. In "Packing for Mars," she puts everyday questions in the context of space travel and what it would take to get astronauts to Mars. This means you get a series of delightful essays centered around questions like "What happens when an astronaut pukes in his helmet?"

Roach shows you how space food evolved to what it is today, writes about the Zero G toilet in entertaining detail and takes you behind the scenes to see how Japan selects astronauts.

The Seattle Times

All this reporting and writing about the moon landing's 50th anniversary got us in the mood to read some science fiction. So here are some suggestions for astronaut-themed science fiction books. We narrowed it down to selections grounded in science and space travel.

'Right Stuff, Wrong Sex'

Margaret A. Weitekamp

The public faces of the Apollo program were male astronauts, but that's not because women weren't qualified for space travel. In fact, the doctor in charge of stress-testing the test pilots who became the first astronauts was convinced women might be especially well-suited to the job, and invited women pilots to undergo the same tests as their male counterparts. Alas, the program was not sanctioned by NASA, and the women never went into space. Written by Margaret Weitekamp, curator of the National Air and Space Museum's social and cultural dimensions of spaceflight collection in Washington, "Right Stuff, Wrong Time" delves into this chapter of women's history in America for a glimpse into what might have been.

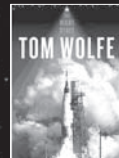
'Moon dust'

Andrew Smith

Originally published in 2005, this was written by a British journalist who decided in 1999—30 years after the first moon landing—to track down all nine of the remaining living (at the time) astronauts who had walked on the moon to find out what they did with the rest of their lives. Essentially, to try to answer the question of whether there's any way to find fulfillment again on Earth after walking on the moon. As might be expected, the answers were different for each man, but for all of them, life was never again the same.

'The Right Stuff'

Tom Wolfe



Though much of the action precedes the Apollo program proper, Tom Wolfe's account of the lives of naval test pilots who would become America's first astronauts is a fun romp and one of the definitive stories of how space travel in America came to be. Not all of it holds up—there's a lot of unexamined mythmaking around the pilots' performative masculine swagger (see: "Flying & Drinking and Driving," women referred to as "cookies")—but it'll make you fall in love with Chuck Yeager, it takes into account the experiences of the long-suffering women who were married to test pilots, and Wolfe's description of what happens to a plane "at the edge of space" is alone worth the price of admission. "The ordinary laws of aerodynamics no longer applied and a plane could skid into a flat spin like a cereal bowl on a waxed Formica counter." It's impossible not to want to know what happens next.

WEEKEND: GADGETS

‘I am in hell’: Moms share letters from summer camp on an Instagram account

BY BETH WHITEHOUSE
Newsday

Last summer, in the midst of her seven weeks at a Pennsylvania sleepaway camp, Ilana Yunis' 9-year-old daughter Serena wrote a letter home that said something like this, “I hate it here. How could you send me here?”

Yunis jokes that she “needed a horse tranquilizer” after receiving the letter. “Out of the blue, she sent me this incredibly, horrifyingly sad homesick letter,” says Yunis, 40, an attorney in Manhattan.

Yunis commiserated with her older sister, Aliza Licht, 45, a marketing consultant and author from Manhattan. The sisters grew up in North Woodmere, N.Y., and attended that same sleepaway camp when they were girls, and Licht also had a daughter, Sabrina, now 11, at the camp.

Licht's response? “Why don't we start an Instagram account and post these letters? I'm sure we're not alone.” And so the Homesickdotcom Instagram account was born — it now has more than 100 funny or poignant letters from campers submitted by their parents. Yunis and Licht screen the letters and redact all the identifying information before adding them to the collection, in the children's original handwriting, misspellings and all.

“Mommy, you promised me I will like my counselor! And I hate all of them!” reads one.

“Dear Mom & Dad, How are you? I am in hell,” reads another.

A third reads, “Dear Mommy, I know you already played for 7 weeks, but I want to come home.”

Still another circled a spot on the letter and wrote, “This is a teardrop.”

Not all the letters are only about homesickness. One writer chastised his parents for not writing enough. “I have 4 letters this year I'm so mad. You hear me everyone else has 10,” the camper wrote.

Another asked for medical advice: “My counselor Jason got scratched by a skunk before camp started and now the skin fell off and the tissue of his muscle is showing. Should he go to the health center?”

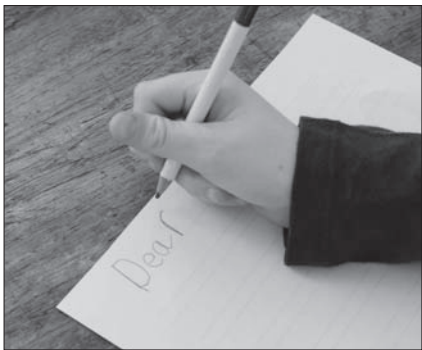
The posted letters are meant to be entertaining. “Misery loves company,” Yunis says. Parents can laugh at the letters because they know they are very much written in the moment and that kids usually bounce back quickly from their moments of missing parents, the sisters say.

Stacy Menikoff, 40, of Plainville, N.Y., says she found out about the account, which now has close to 2,000 followers, because her daughter, Blair, 10, is in Sabrina's bunk at camp. “It's the funniest thing ever,” Menikoff says. “I think it's realistic for parents who have children at sleepaway camp.”

So did Yunis pick her daughter up last summer after she got the missive? Of course not, she says. “It's a huge luxury and a privilege,” she says of the sleepaway camp experience. “It's teaching the kid independence and coping skills.”

“I told her, ‘You're going to feel amazing at the end of the day that you did it.’”

She did, however, consider sending Serena to camp without any stamps this summer.



DREAMTIME/TNS

The Homesickdotcom Instagram account has more than 100 funny or poignant letters from campers submitted by their parents.

GADGET WATCH



Scosche/TNS

FlyTunes lets you share while you're all in the air

BY GREG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Not everyone has Bluetooth-enabled devices, but with Scosche's new FlyTunes, you'll instantly have it added to old and new audio devices. It's so easy that after using it just once, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

The pocket-sized audio transmitter (1-by-1.875-by-0.5 inches) plugs into a 3.5 mm AUX audio output and with its internal Bluetooth transmitter, it will pair with up to two Bluetooth devices at once to send the audio wirelessly.

Now two people traveling together can watch and listen to the same movie on an airline's in-flight entertainment or with your own movie player without the need for extra cables or connections. This one device does it all, and the setup is easy.

Traveling is just one way of using it; most TVs have an audio output, and nighttime TV watchers can keep the outside noise silent to others with the FlyTunes. Home stereos, gamers and fitness machines are just a few other ways to make use of the Bluetooth audio connection.

If a device has a 3.5 mm audio output, it should work. I couldn't find anything it wouldn't work with, including my first generation iPod Shuffle. A multi-function button is on the center of one side and is pressed to pair a Bluetooth headset (not included); turn it on or off or play/pause your audio.

An internal battery will last for 8 hours of use; a USB-C charging cable is included along with a soft storage pouch and a 4-inch, 3.5 mm extension cable.

Airplanes have been slow to adapt to audio systems, and since some old connections are still in use, the FlyTunes can adapt with its two folding prongs. They connect to single or dual outputs.

I tried FlyTunes with a dozen different Bluetooth headphones and had complete success.

Online: Scosche.com; \$39.99, available in black or white

The ParaKito is perfect for this time of year to keep pesky mosquitoes away in style.

The bug repellent system provides mosquito protection in a stylish wristband, which stores the mosquito repellent pellets in a small sachet. Each is good for up to 15 days and slides in and out of a mesh pocket on the outside of wristband bracelets



ParaKito/TNS

The ParaKito mosquito repellent wristband looks fantastic, and it might even keep bugs away.

that secure with Velcro closures, which can be worn on your wrist or ankle.

My wife and I tested the bug repellent wear during a recent night out on a lake. While I can't guarantee we would have gotten mosquito bites if we didn't have the wristbands on, we came away from the night bug bite-free.

Best of all, the ingredients inside the pellets are made with all-natural essential oils, not chemicals and annoyingly strong scents. They do emit a fragrance, which is typical for most bug repellents, but was not offensive or annoying in any way.

The active ingredients in the oil pellets are citronella (34%) rosemary (22%) geranium (21%), mint (10%), clove (2.5%), peppermint (1.5%) and cinnamon (1%). ParaKito claims that the product is a Minimum Risk Pesticide.

The flexible wristbands are Velcro adjustable and are available in all kinds of fun, colorful and stylish choices for adults and children.

If a bracelet isn't your thing, there are other choices to hold the pellets including repellent clips, which is the version I used (my wife went with the wristband) attached to a belt loop.

Each wristband or clip (\$19.50 each) is waterproof and includes two replacement pellets. Addition packs of repellent pellets are available in packs of 2 (\$13), 6 (\$39) and 12 (\$78).

The all-natural mosquito repellent oil is also available in a roll-on (\$19.50) with a 5-hour efficacy of each use.

Online: us.parakito.com

ON THE COVER: “The Lion King” puts photorealistic animation to the updated version of Disney’s “Hamlet”-like animal kingdom tale.

ILLUSTRATION USING PHOTOS FROM DISNEY BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

COMMENTARY

HIGH ANXIETY

Americans say they are more anxious than a year ago. Could efforts to avoid those feelings only be making it worse?

By JELENA KECMANOVIC
Special to *The Washington Post*

We live in the age of anxiety. As a psychologist who has studied anxiety and treated hundreds of anxious patients, I see it eclipsing all other problems as a major psychological issue in the 21st century. Each day, I treat people who worry constantly and can't relax, who feel tense and achy, and who have difficulty sleeping — all hallmarks of anxiety. Survey data confirm anxiety is ubiquitous.

Nearly one-third of American adults say they feel more anxious than a year ago, according to a May poll from the American Psychiatric Association. The National Institute of Mental Health reports that anxiety disorders have become the most common group of mental disorders, with about one-fifth of U.S. adults struggling with an anxiety disorder each year, and almost one-third experiencing an anxiety disorder during their lifetimes.

Why is anxiety increasing? I see plausible explanations in the way we've evolved and, paradoxically, in the way we try to manage anxiety. These explanations can point us toward several powerful techniques that can reverse the trend of rising anxiety.

Evolutionary mismatch

Humans have evolved over millions of years to be good at detecting threats in the environment. Ancestors who excelled at fighting or fleeing from dangerous situations were more likely to survive, and we have inherited their genes. Living in the developed world does not typically bring us into constant contact with life-threatening danger. But our threat-detection system remains vigilant, and it's being bombarded as never before.

"We live in constant state of threat owing to the 24-hour news cycle" and digital interconnection, said David Sloan Wilson, professor of biology and anthropology at Binghamton University and president of the Evolution Institute. Whether it is in reaction to another photo or article about a recent shooting, grounded planes, trade wars or the latest stroller recall, our anxiety has constant opportunity to flare up.

Our lives differ dramatically from our ancestors' in other ways. Hunter-gatherers were much more active — walking to find food or shelter, running from predators, climbing, lifting heavy objects and fighting. They followed the rhythms of nature and slept when night fell. And they belonged to small, tight-knit communities or extended families.

In contrast, we move less, sleep less and have weaker bonds, all of which can lead to anxiety. "Many of us are like animals in captivity," said Kelly Wilson, a psychology professor at the University of Mississippi. "When you immobilize rats and other animals, you can basically create the state of anxiety or depression." The length and quality of our sleep

have been compromised by light-emitting devices, information overload and societal standards; many of my clients comment that they feel guilty or lazy for sleeping longer than six hours. Uneven economic opportunities and geographic mobility have led to the decline of traditional extended families and lifelong local communities. More than a quarter of U.S. adults live alone, and nearly half reported feeling lonely or excluded in a 2018 survey.

What you resist, persists

Another problem is how we try to deal with anxiety. Because being anxious can be an uncomfortable and scary experience, we resort to conscious or unconscious strategies that help reduce anxiety in the moment — watching a movie or TV show, eating, drinking, internet browsing, video-game playing, dating-app swiping and overworking. Smartphones provide a distraction any time of the day or night. Psychological research has shown that distractions serve as a common anxiety avoidance strategy.

Paradoxically, however, these avoidance strategies make anxiety worse in the long run. Being anxious is like getting into quicksand — the more you fight it, the deeper you sink. Indeed, research strongly supports Carl Jung's maxim that "What you resist, persists."

My clients' lives often become consumed with trying to manage anxiety at the expense of everything else. Their avoidance extends to more and more aspects of their lives so that, in the words of several clients, "the world becomes so small." And they're passing this problem on to their children.

"In almost 40 years of practice, I have noticed that people are becoming less tolerant of distress," said clinical psychologist Mary Alvord, director of Alvord, Baker & Associates in Maryland. "Parents are more protective of their children," robbing kids of the opportunity to learn how to deal with stress, she said. So the new generation is growing up avoiding discomfort or pain until it becomes too much, and they become overwhelmed by it.

Remedies

Research shows that disconnecting from Facebook alone for a few days can lead to lower stress. If starting an exercise regimen sounds daunting, begin by walking a few minutes a day and gradually increase the time. Interrupting long periods of sitting with even short bursts of activity has proved to help. If sleep frequently eludes you, turn off all electronic devices at least an hour before bed and remove them from your room. Finally, make a list of all the people who are important to you. Then call them and set up a time to meet.

How can we stop dealing with our anxiety by distracting ourselves? Cognitive behavior therapy offers helpful suggestions. Notice when your body becomes tense and you feel the urge to escape by pulling out your phone or reaching for a drink. Then delay that escape for a few minutes. See what happens as your mind and body experience the discomfort. Repeat this each time you notice anxiety appearing, and try to delay the habitual responses longer and longer.

For people with serious anxiety problems or disorders, cognitive behavioral therapy strategies should be aided by a mental health professional.



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WEEKEND: FAMILY

COMMENTARY

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The bottom line

Consider this before making cloth diapers your No. 1 option

By ANNA MOMIGLIANO
Special to The Washington Post

When my second daughter was born, my fiancé and I started using cloth diapers for the most trivial of reasons: A couple we knew handed down to us a 10-piece kit of washable organic cotton diapers that, they told us, was “almost new” because they gave up on using them early on. Almost seven months later, I am a happy part-time cloth-diaper mom, with an established daily routine alternating three or four changes of washable nappies and three or four changes of biodegradable single uses.

The hand-me-down diapers are of the “fitted” variety (basically thick underpads of towel-like material around which is a waterproof outer layer that lasts several changes). We also bought an all-in-one diaper (the whole diaper needs to be washed at each change) and a pocket diaper system consisting of one diaper and three inserts (you change the inserts and, depending on how much of a mess the baby makes, the actual diaper might stay clean). So far it has been a good experience, but we’ve had our challenges. Here are five things parents should know before making the decision whether to buy reusable diapers.

1 Start small, because cloth diapering isn’t for everyone. I know quite a few people who tried it and gave it up. The couple who handed us the kit found it exhausting. They are environmentally conscious people who couldn’t handle the workload and so ended up paying about \$180 for something they didn’t use. I talked to a father in South Africa who had to give up cloth diapers because of a drought. I know a mom in Switzerland who abandoned washable diapers after using them for five months; when winter came, they just took too much time to dry. So,

wait before buying an expensive kit. Start with two or three diapers to see whether it’s something you can handle, and only then buy in bulk. If it isn’t for you, don’t feel bad about it. We’re all human.

2 It’s not always eco-friendly. A peer-reviewed study published in 2008 by the U.K. Environmental Agency found that “the environmental impacts of using shaped reusable nappies can be higher or lower than using disposables, depending on how they are laundered.” Using cloth diapers in an environmentally optimal way — washing them in full loads, without using a dryer, and reusing them on a second child — can reduce their carbon footprint by almost 40% compared with disposable diapers. But washing them in half-loads with a tumble dryer might, in fact, defeat the purpose. (It should be noted that the study, which is a decade old, is based on data about diapers made of cotton, a notoriously water-hungry crop, while now diapers made from the more sustainable bamboo are easily available.) So if your primary motivation is environmental, using a dryer is out of the question. This means you’ll have to take into account the time diapers need to dry, which can be days. Also, you’ll need to wash them in full loads, which means you’ll have to wait for at least 8 to 10 dirty diapers to pile up before cleaning them, assuming you plan to wash them separately because poop is involved. Most people I know wash them separately, but we wash them with whites, adding laundry sanitizer.

3 You’re going to need a lot of them. Because to fulfill their environmental purpose, cloth diapers need to be washed in full loads and line-dried, you’re going to need a lot of them. An unscientific survey among my cloth-diaper-using friends showed that you’ll need about 20

to use them full time or mostly full time. This, of course, has financial implications. The number of diapers you’ll need depends on the model you choose: with pocket diapers, you’ll need fewer, because you can change just the insert (though that might not be true in the first months when infants tend to poop often and less solidly). The price of a single cloth diaper can vary, from about \$5 to \$20. Using cloth will most likely save you money in the long run, but it requires an initial investment that could be a burden.

4 They’re good for the baby’s skin — but only if you change them often. Cloth diapers are often praised for being good for the environment and good for the baby’s skin. However, they tend to be less absorbent than disposables. We had some diaper-rash issues before I realized this.

5 They are cumbersome. This is something I wish someone had told me before I had bought newborn clothes. Washable diapers vary depending on the type, with “fitted” diapers tending to be more voluminous than all-in-one and pocket nappies. But they’re all considerably bigger than regular disposables. This means you might need to add an extra size to your baby’s outfits, especially in the first months. For us, cloth diapers and newborn-size clothes proved mutually exclusive, despite the fact that our daughter could wear newborn clothes with regular diapers.

I realize this can sound discouraging. But the good news is that using cloth diapers isn’t as terrible as it sounds once you’ve established a routine. Most reassuringly, it gets better after the first months when the baby starts eating solid food and her stool becomes more solid. Just remember, start gradually. And if it’s not for you, don’t feel guilty: There are plenty of other things you can do for the environment.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



A tribute to summer sellers of soft serve

A few months ago, I was cursing my place in the world. I mean literally, the actual spot where we live here in “Rhode Iceland.” After my husband retired from the Navy, I thought I could handle the harsh, bitter, seemingly endless New England winters, but every time it snows in April (and it does every year), I curse the ground it falls upon.

But somehow, without fail, summer comes to this temperamental part of the planet, and it has the same effect that the birth of each of my three babies had on me after long hours of labor — I am so happy to see it, I completely forget about the excruciating pain I just endured.

As soon as the flowers begin to bloom, the lawn turns green, and mild coastal breezes waft over the bay — POOF! I have selective amnesia. I suddenly can’t recall the chunks of gritty snow hanging from my car’s wheel wells, the salt stains on my leather boots, the Nor’easters that cut me to the quick, the chapped lips, the flaky skin, and our shocking fuel oil bills.

I never know the exact date that the mercy of selective amnesia will thaw my frozen psyche, but it usually coincides with another much-anticipated yearly event — the opening of our local summer soft serve ice cream joint.

Those who are stationed in California, Florida, Arizona, Florida or Texas might not understand this, but living in climates with harsh winters does come with certain benefits. And one of those is the privilege of experiencing summer soft serve joints. They are generally dumpy, privately-owned, small businesses run out of shacks with walk-up windows, neon signs and outdoor picnic tables. They only operate in summer, and local folks line up on opening day. Their soft serve cones are always huge, but the nappies are inevitably too small to catch the drips. They have names that often include cutesy misspelled derivations of “freeze,” “come,” “treat,” “dairy” and “cream.”

Where I grew up in Western Pennsylvania, there’s one such joint called “Stern’s” in the former coal mining borough of Creekside. On any given night in summer, locals line up for humongous swirled soft serve cones that are so tall, they look like they’ll topple over, and homemade hot apple dumplings smothered in vanilla frozen custard. After marriage, the Navy took my family to tours of duty in warmer climates where our ice cream cravings could only be satisfied at year-round chain restaurants. And while stationed overseas, we took the mandatory culinary detour away from American cuisine to experience the delights of European gelato parlors.

But soon after being stationed in Rhode Island six years ago, our family learned that “Frosty Freeze,” a tiny walk-up shack in a parking lot in front of a strip mall off of East Main Street, between an insurance agency and Glam Nail Salon. That first summer, we heard the hubbub about opening day, and wondered, “What’s the big deal? Why is everyone lining up for basic soft-serve and rainbow sprinkles?” But it didn’t take us long to be dazzled by the aura of this iconic New England treat. Now, we fight the line with everyone else, swatting bugs attracted to the neon lights, to get our rightful taste of the season.

My order is usually vanilla and coffee custard swirled on a cone, and dipped in chocolate, because I love the process of systematically nibbling off the chocolate shell and licking the ice cream drips. Francis typically opts for a strawberry shake. The kids orders vary, but they mostly go for the candy-popped “Frogs.”

Local joints like Frosty Freeze thrive despite stiff competition from year-round establishments because they represent something more than the cheap frozen custard they express out of stainless steel machines into flimsy cones and dip in waxily imitation chocolate. To the people who flock to them, they represent sunshine and swatting bugs, warm grass and garden hoses, flip-flops and fireflies, baseball games and bathing suits, sunburns and screened doors, fire pits and Frisbees, bug bites and beach chairs.

Simply put, soft serve ice cream joints are American symbols of summer joy.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

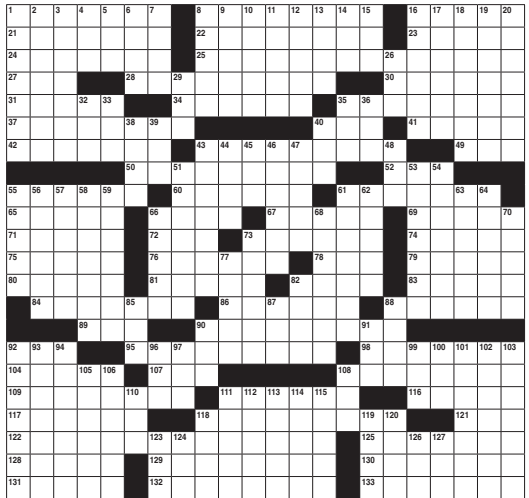
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

HIDDEN TACTICS

BY JACK REUTER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jack Reuter, 25, is a freelance app developer for Android devices in Montrose, N.Y. He says he likes crosswords that have an extra layer to them — which this unusual puzzle definitely does. It is Jack's debut for The Times. — W&L
Instructions: The center of this puzzle represents a 70-Down/55-Down, in which you can achieve a 122-Across by moving the 25-Across.

- ACROSS**
1 Cleaning product in a dangerous 2010s viral internet challenge
8 "Home" in a classic song
16 Jack of children's rhyme
21 "Agreed"
22 Escapes, as molasses
23 Irregularly notched, as a leaf
24 Protein found in hair and hooves
25 See instructions
27 Watson's creator
28 Pain for a tile, maybe
30 Yearbook
31 Side represented by
34 Adams and Elgort
35 Doctor's order
37 Dorothy's caretaker in "The Wizard of Oz"
40 Irritate
41 Irritable
42 Verify the addition of
43 Nabisco product with an exclamation point in its name
49 That guy's
50 Ill repute, to a Brit
52 Santa ___ winds
55 Some ovals
60 Become attentive
61 Succeeds
65 Cowboy flick
66 Eve's counterpart
- DOWN**
67 What a plant may exude
69 Freak out
71 Treasure
72 When doubled, a Thor Heyerdahl book
73 Mother
74 [Gumble, gumble]
75 Pith phrases
76 Set aside for now
78 Score elements: Abbr.
79 Digital message
80 Old gold coin
81 Map of Hawaii or Alaska, often
82 1974 Gould/Sutherland C.I.A. spoof
83 Lushes
84 Deteriorate with age
86 Cut into bits
88 Prevents, legally
89 Letters near an X-ray machine
90 People native to Tennessee and the Carolinas
92 "While I have you ..." in a text
95 Classic 1922 film subtitled "A Symphony of Horror"
98 Brown-headed nest appropriator
104 "Fighting" college team
107 Mark of pens and lighters
108 Sheer fabric
109 First commercial film shown in stereophonic sound
111 Key of Bizet's first symphony
116 Side represented by
117 87 is a common one
118 Conspicuous
121 Yuletide contraction
122 See instructions
125 Arrests
128 Outpost for an osprey
129 No longer needed for questioning
130 Senator Tammy Duckworth or former Senator Max Cleland
131 Symbol of directness
132 Arrived at, as an answer
133 Swollen area
- ACROSS**
17 Figure in many a fairy tale
18 Mischievous
19 One-named singer with the 2002 No. 1 hit "Foolish"
20 Some cuppas
26 No longer edible
29 Computing acronym
32 Silicon Valley start-up V.I.P.
33 Baby fox
35 Unexceptional
36 Prefix with planet
38 St. Louis's ___ Bridge, the oldest span over the Mississippi
39 Biblical high priest
40 The "u" spelling of 50-Across, e.g.: Abbr.
43 Figures in the Sistine Chapel
44 Part of Africa or an orchestra
45 Your signature might be in this
46 Came down hard
47 Terrific
48 Chatter
51 City that hosted the 1974 World's Fair
53 Rare beneficiaries of royal succession
54 Together
55 See instructions
56 Dating-app distance metric
57 Stal
58 Lush
59 Son of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon
61 Enter incorrectly
62 Jawbone of (biblical weapon)
- DOWN**
63 How early Beatles songs were recorded
64 Best
66 Suffix on many an infomercial product's name
68 Self-inflicted ritual death of a samurai
70 See instructions
73 Leash
77 Dulce de ___ (confection)
82 Notice
85 ___ Luis Obispo
87 One of 24 in un giorno
88 Those: Sp.
90 Banned aerosol propellant, for short
91 Green: Prefix
92 Like some lenses
93 Wrong pipe, so to speak
94 Spend December through March (in)
96 Bit of judo attire
97 One-named singer with the 2014 hit "Chandelier"
99 Indianapolis-to-St. Louis dir.
100 "Phooey!"
101 Ape
102 Calls it quits
103 Boutique stock
105 Barbie's younger sister
106 Long (for)
108 Part of an M.A. program application
110 Religious sch.
111 Called out
112 Any of the Apennines
113 In ___ (grumpy)
114 War hawk
115 Situation after a leadoff single
118 Ball ___
119 Big org. in Saturday-afternoon TV
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123 Half of a 1955 union merger
124 Singer's syllable
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GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

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FACES

McCartney adapting 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Paul McCartney is writing his first stage musical, an adaptation of the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

The former Beatle is collaborating with "Billy Elliot" playwright Lee Hall and West End producer Bill Kenwright.

McCartney said he'd never considered writing a musical, but after meeting Kenwright and Hall three years ago, "found myself thinking this could be interesting and fun."

Hall said McCartney's "wit, emotional honesty and melodic brilliance brings a whole new depth and breadth to the classic tale."

Frank Capra's 1946 film tells the story of George Bailey, a small-town banker wracked with regret who is shown the value of his life by a guardian angel.

Producers said Thursday they are aiming for a late 2020 launch for the show. Its dates and venue have not been released.

Author Laura Lippman has 5-book deal

Prize-winning crime novelist Laura Lippman has several new books planned, not all of them fiction.

Lippman has reached a five-book deal with her current publisher, William Morrow. The deal, announced Thursday, includes three novels, a short story collection and a book of personal essays, her first-ever nonfiction release. Lippman said in a statement that her longtime editor, Carrie Feron, had seen the "potential" of an essay collection, something she hadn't thought of herself.

Lippman is known for her Baltimore-based Tess Monaghan series and for such standalone novels as "Every Secret Thing," adapted into a movie starring Diane Lane and Elizabeth Banks. She won an Edgar Award for her Monaghan novel "Charm City," published in 1997.



Cast members of "It: Chapter Two" speak at a Comic-Con event July 17 in San Diego, Calif.

'Born to play Pennywise'

Cast of 'It: Chapter Two' discusses Skarsgard's acting, 'record' amounts of fake blood at Comic-Con event

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

"It: Chapter Two" is not taking it easy on the grown losers' club if the new trailer is any indication, and the shoot itself doesn't sound much calmer than battling a demonic clown, either.

A theater of fans got a sneak peek at the latest promo for the horror sequel at a Comic-Con event Wednesday night in San Diego before it's released to the world Thursday morning.

Cast including James McAvoy, Bill Hader and Jessica Chastain were also on hand to tease three chilling extended scenes that had the audience gasping, laughing and cheering. They described the intensity of the shoot with director Andy Muschietti, who wouldn't quit until he got the perfect shot.

Chastain recalled doing a scene with blood. She wasn't supposed to get any on her face, but she protested and said, "No, let's make it 'Carrie' on steroids." Later, "freezing and very uncomfortable" in a kiddie pool covered with the fake blood, she may have regretted her choice.

They said, laughing, that throughout film-

ing they used a "record" amount of fake blood — 4,500 gallons, according to Chastain.

McAvoy also talked about filming a particularly hair-raising scene in a hall of mirrors that he said was "like a nightmare ... absolutely horrific. There was no fun in it."

And all marveled at Bill Skarsgard's ability to transform into Pennywise the clown.

"He's super imposing in the costume," Bill Hader said. "He's a super nice guy but then when they say 'Action,' it's like a whole other being."

According to the cast, the "eye trick" Pennywise does where one eye is looking straight and the other goes off to the side is not computer-generated; it's just something Skarsgard is able to do.

"It's like he was born to play Pennywise," Hader said.

Conan O'Brien moderated the late night ScareDiego event put on by Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema and pleaded with the audience not to record any of the footage.

The film opens nationwide on Sept. 6. Comic-Con's main events were to begin Thursday at the San Diego Convention Center.

turned into something much darker. The story about a young prince who loses his father hit a nerve for Zimmer, who also lost his father at a young age.

"All that stuff that one had managed to cover up so well, I had to go and open up and actually write from that point," Zimmer said. "I had to write what it felt like to be a little boy who loses his father."

And yet Zimmer is always somewhat surprised to find that people have such a connection to it. Terrence Malick approached him for "The Thin Red Line," which would earn him another Oscar nomination, because of "The Lion King."

He remembers being at a dinner with Malick, Werner Herzog and others and overhearing the filmmakers passionately arguing about which piece in "The Lion King" they prefer.

"I'm going, they're talking about a kids' movie," Zimmer said, still slightly baffled and amused. "Terry Malick and Werner Herzog arguing about 'The Lion King'!" And when Pharrell Williams convinced Zimmer to play at Coachella in 2017, he said

fine, but that, "The one thing we're not going to do is 'The Lion King.'"

A 23-year-old member of his band told him to get over himself. "It's the soundtrack of my generation," the young man declared. Zimmer conceded and had a bit of a revelation in the desert.

I look out throughout the shambles of a field with all these people and see grown men and women truly touched and I'm realizing it's not because it's sentimental but because it's emotional, it's the truth, and my band is playing every note with total conviction," Zimmer said.

That was the convincing he needed.

Zimmer got to do something special this time around. He recorded with a live audience at The Barbra Streisand Scoring Stage where they've recorded everything from "Gone With the Wind" and "Lawrence of Arabia" to "E.T." and the most recent Star Wars films.

"I had 102 people in the orchestra and the band. And then I put 20 chairs upfront for the filmmakers who made the movie who actually never get to come to the recording sessions," Zimmer said with a smile. "It's the circle of life, or completing a circle or whatever. The Force is strong on this!"

Yet another 'Old Town Road' remix has Area 51-themed video

By TERRY NGUYEN
The Washington Post

Lil Nas X has released his third "Old Town Road" remix, and odds are it won't be his last.

The video to this latest track, which was uploaded Tuesday on YouTube (online at youtu.be/aA7xDp9sQzk), is a cartoon take on Area 51, a meme-turned-potential national security threat, setting up the clip for viral attention — something the 20-year-old Atlanta rapper is a master at. You can't escape the soft banjo twangs or head-bopping trap beat of the single, this year's summer anthem, now dominating the Billboard Hot 100 for the 15th week.

Now Lil Nas X is on a remix craze — striving to keep up with the momentum his breakout song continues to offer.

So far, the rapper has three remixes of the song, including the version that he rode to superstardom alongside none other than OG country star Billy Ray Cyrus — a collaboration inspired by Billboard removing "Old Town Road" from its country music charts in April for not having enough elements of country.

DJ and producer Diplo was recruited in late April to add a funky EDM beat to the track, which was performed at Stargate's Festival. Lil Nas X's latest features yodeling wunderkind Mason Ramsey (yes, the kid who went viral for yodeling in Walmart) and fellow Atlanta rapper Young Thug. The accompanying music video is a chaotic animation of the four artists storming Area 51, which cleverly reflected the latest internet trend as much as it is a marketing play for his debut EP "7." Each remix also has its own galloping horse artwork, with each artist represented as a different-colored horse. (Lil Nas X is the original black stallion.)

On Tuesday, Lil Wayne confirmed in an interview with XXL Mag that he recorded an official "Old Town Road" remix, but he wasn't sure where it was in the production and release process. And on Twitter, Lil Nas X has entertained the idea of even more remixes. He suggested bringing on Dolly Parton, as well as rapper Megan Thee Stallion.

But why so many remixes? After all, there are only a handful of ways a single can be redone untainted. "Old Town Road" has evolved from its internet roots — a rap-infused country song that TikTok users edited over silly videos — to a radio banger. And it seems like audiences keep wanting more.

The new remixes slightly deviate from Lil Nas X's original. His alluring drawl and unforgettable verses remain intact, although edited with a faster electronic beat or supplemented with another artist's vocals. But it matters little whom he features; his fans seem simply delighted that there is another track to play incessantly on loop this summer.

'Lion King' composer Zimmer circles back for remake

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Composer Hans Zimmer can't seem to get away from "The Lion King."

The award-winning composer has gotten him jobs, his only Oscar and secured him a place in the hearts of children and adults. But he wasn't sure he wanted to come back when John Favreau approached him to revisit the soundtrack for the animated film, now in theaters.

"I'm always the one saying no to everything," Zimmer, 61, said. "I suppose I'm the reluctant brad."

He only agreed to do "The Lion King" a quarter of a century ago because of his daughter. She was 6 at the time, and his movies at that point weren't exactly child-friendly.

He had one stipulation: That it wasn't going to be a musical.

"I said I don't want to do a musical; I hate musicals," Zimmer said. "And they said, we'll guarantee you this will not become a musical ever." How it ended up that way is "another story."

But it's not the only way "The Lion King" diverged from his expectations. What he thought was going to be a "nice cartoon"



Zimmer

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Kilmeek, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stars.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stars.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stars.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stars.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stars.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stars.com
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacioli.joseph@stars.com
(+1)202/886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stars.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.w.reisman.naf@gmail.com
reisman@stars.com
DSN (314)583.9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stars.com
memberservices@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific

Mar Mori, customerhelp@stars.com
+81-3-6585.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

tel (+1)202.886.0033
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3505

Reader letters

letters@stars.com

Additional contacts

stars@stars.com/contact

OMBUSDMAN

Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Ensure opioids settlements improve lives

BY ABDULLAH SHIHPIR
AND BRANDON D.L. MARSHALL
Special to The Washington Post

As states and municipalities begin to settle the more than 1,000 lawsuits filed against pharmaceutical companies over the opioid crisis, it may appear as though this chapter in the epidemic is coming to a close. After all, it seems obvious that the money drawn from these lawsuits should go toward combating the crisis, given that an opioid overdose is still one of the leading causes of the death in the United States.

But with state and municipal governments, hospital systems and even the federal government all jostling for their piece of the pie, making sure the money from these settlements goes where it's needed most will be much more complicated. Fortunately, there's a valuable example to learn from: the mistakes and successes of the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

That agreement between the attorneys general of 46 states and tobacco companies proved states' bills of statehood, which they rhetorically pledged toward tobacco-prevention programs. Some states implemented those efforts at first, but balancing states' budgets soon took precedence. Only Florida managed to permanently ensure that its funds would be reserved for public health by passing a state constitutional amendment in 2006. Today, less than 3 percent of funds are allocated for smoking prevention and cessation programs.

The same pattern threatens to play out with opioids settlements. Take Oklahoma, for instance. After state and Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, settled a lawsuit that alleged the company had aggressively and deceptively marketed the drug for \$270 million, the money was allocated to a new addiction treatment and

research center at Oklahoma State University. That prompted backlash from state officials who felt they were left out of the process.

With two more lawsuits left to go (against Teva Pharmaceuticals and Johnson & Johnson), the Oklahoma legislature passed a law mandating that any funds be directed into the general treasury. The parties also reached an agreement that the funds from the Teva lawsuit would be used to "help abate the ongoing crisis the state is facing," with the legislature charged with making specific provisions.

That even a single state has faced these logistical challenges to managing its settlement shows just how hard it would be to come to a master agreement with opioid producers, even if officials can agree to coordinate in seeking one.

Some state attorneys general have signaled their opposition, arguing it undercuts any national agreement the states may reach. And in an echo of the redirection of the tobacco master settlement funds, some officials have discussed settlements about "recuperating and recovering" costs. While no one would deny that the opioid crisis has put a massive strain on government coffers, it would be a poor investment to spend settlement money balancing budgets rather than putting resources toward the ongoing crisis.

But while the tobacco master settlement provides a warning, it also suggests possible ways forward. In that case, attorneys general did not know whether they had the authority to direct funds over the wishes of their legislatures. Laws could be passed that require state legislatures to direct funds to evidence-based treatment programs and overdose prevention. States could also choose to follow Florida's approach and ask voters to pass a state constitutional amendment.

Money from the settlement would be used to bolster or establish statewide opioid commissions. That has been a successful model in Rhode Island, where the governor's overdose task force has successfully worked with local partners across the state to reduce high-risk opioid prescribing, be it by using treatment, increasing naloxone distribution and improve recovery resources. Funds could also be used to fundamentally reshape the delivery of addiction treatment in the U.S.

One recent study found that almost half of all counties lack access to medications for opioid use disorder, the gold standard treatment for opioid addiction. A program akin to the Ryan White program for HIV/AIDS treatment could ensure that everyone suffering from opioid addiction has access to lifesaving treatment.

Ideally, any settlement would include a provision requiring legislatures to pass laws allocating the funds to treatment harm reduction and overdose prevention programs while leaving states the freedom to figure out specifics based on the realities in their state. An advisory committee could be tasked with making specific recommendations, and then the legislature would act. It's clear that a settlement would have to be between states; an agreement with thousands of municipalities signed on that ensures money is properly allocated would be logistically difficult, if not impossible.

A master settlement for opioids has the potential to dramatically improve the response to the crisis. However, government officials need to work together to get to a settlement that directs funds to the people who need it most — not the members of budgeting committees but victims of the opioid epidemic.

Abdullah Shihpir is a master's degree candidate at the Brown University School of Public Health. Brandon D.L. Marshall is an associate professor of epidemiology at the school.

Maritime security is immediate Gulf challenge

BY DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

Here's the most intriguing fact about Iran's apparent seizure on Saturday of a small oil tanker about 240 miles northwest of here: Thus far, it has brought only a muted response from the United Arab Emirates, in whose waters the vessel had been operating, and from the United States, which is quietly organizing a multinational effort to protect shipping in the Persian Gulf.

If this were a boxing match, you'd say that the United States is trying to let Iran punch itself out. The U.S. hasn't retaliated for several tanker incidents near the Strait of Hormuz over the past two months, or the shoot-down of its surveillance drone, or other provocations. The U.S. military lets Iran keep throwing jabs — while reading a knockout blow if it's ever needed.

"It's an international problem; it's not a United States problem," Gen. Frank McKenzie, the head of U.S. Central Command, said in an interview early Tuesday as he traveled here. He said that any escorting of tankers through the Strait should be done by countries that depend on oil from the Gulf, with the U.S. providing reconnaissance and other special tools to enhance what he called "maritime domain awareness."

McKenzie's low-key comments, which came after the first news reports that surfaced about Saturday's disappearance of the tiny tanker Riah into the waters off Iran's heavily fortified Qeshm Island, seemed to illustrate the broader U.S. strategy of avoiding a direct faceoff with Iran,

if possible. The U.S. has been bolstering its already vast arsenal in the Gulf but, thus far, hasn't used it visibly.

"Our ability to bring forces into the theater has acted to deter" the Iranians from broader actions, McKenzie argued. "We're in a period right now where they're sort of recalculating and trying to gauge our intent and our commitment." The U.S. goal, it seems, is well-armed patience — not responding to provocations but waiting to see what the Iranians do.

This measured U.S. response may be the most notable, if least discussed, aspect of the confrontation with Iran. American planners reckon that time is on their side; Iran gets weaker with every additional month of economic sanctions. Tehran wants to break out of that straitjacket, but lacking domestic channels with the U.S., it's choosing to send messages through kinetic force. Yet Iranian leaders know they need to be careful.

Caution is also increasingly evident among Gulf Arab nations, such as the UAE, that have been providing the Trump administration toward confrontation with Iran. Emirati leaders know that a U.S.-led coalition would prevail eventually in a military conflict — but that the gleaming buildings that crowd the 21st-century wonderland of Abu Dhabi and Dubai would be early targets. The jewels of the Gulf could become splintered glass.

The UAE's wary response under the apparent seizure of the tanker was telling. Emirati leaders want deescalation and a political process with Iran. Another sign of the UAE's effort to step back from the brink was the withdrawal of most of its forces from Yemen — a ruinous war

that has produced no strategic gain against the Houthi forces that are Iran's proxies there but which has brought a humanitarian catastrophe for civilians.

The Emirati withdrawal is a win for good sense, and, also, it must be said, for the Houthis and Iran. It also suggests cracks in the UAE's alliance with Saudi Arabia, which will keep forces along the Yemen border even as its ally departs. For Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the architect of this campaign, Yemen has become an increasingly lonely quagmire.

As America calibrates its moves in the confrontation with Iran, its greatest potential vulnerability is Iraq, where more than 5,000 American troops could be menaced by Iran-sponsored Shiite militias. The Iraqi government pledges to restrain Iran's aggression, but in this crisis escalates, that will be an impossible promise for Baghdad to keep.

The immediate challenge in the Gulf is maritime security — and curbing Iranian attacks on shipping. That's one reason why the U.S. launched the first stop-on-10-day tour of the region (accompanied by a small press contingent of me and CBS-TV's David Martin). Oman hosts a Maritime Security Center here that's the equivalent of an air traffic control center for shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. In the American game plan, Oman would be an important partner in a broad, multinational coalition to protect shipping from Iranian hit-and-run operations. The U.S. strategy would be to work with these partners to deescalate tensions.

Iran has all but begged for a direct confrontation with America. So far, the U.S. response correctly has been: No!

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Pelosi violated political norms to condemn Trump

Their Way Street Journal

If you're going to condemn someone else in politics, or any other walk of life, you should have your own house in order. Nancy Pelosi learned that the hard way Tuesday as the speaker violated House rules by accusing President Donald Trump of sending "racist" tweets.

"Every single member of this institution, Democratic and Republican, should join us in condemning the president's racist tweets," Pelosi said in teeing up a House resolution to denounce Trump that passed Tuesday evening largely along party lines.

To do anything less would be a shocking rejection of our most sacred duty as legislators: the declaration of our oath of office to protect the American people."

Speaking of values, House rules say that Members may not call a president racist. Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., rose to ask the speaker to "rephrase" her comments. She refused, saying that she had already started and had approved them in advance. A flurry of conversation followed, with a Democrat even abandoning the chair presiding over the House lest he have to strike the speaker's words from the record. No one can remember that ever happening.

Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer eventually took the chair to say the speaker's words were "out of order." But the Democratic majority then voted 232-190 not to strike Pelosi's words from the record, and it voted again by a similar margin to override House rules so she wouldn't be banned from speaking on the House floor for the rest of the day as she should have been when a member's words are "taken down."

What a farce. In her zeal to play to the media chorus that Trump is a "racist," Pelosi violates her own House rules on appropriate speech. But rather than apologizing, she and her party override the rules to spare her embarrassment. All of which proves again that Donald Trump, for all of his excesses, has no monopoly on violating political norms.

Officer who choked Garner shouldn't still have his job

The New York Times

On Tuesday, just one day before the statute of limitations would have run out, the Justice Department said it wouldn't bring federal civil rights charges against the New York City police officer who put Eric Garner to sleep for the rest of the day as she should have been when a member's words are "taken down."

A state grand jury declined to indict that officer, Daniel Pantaleo, five years ago, and as departmental disciplinary action has been delayed, he not only remains on modified duty but also has a raise in overtime pay. So far, nobody has been held accountable for Garner's death.

After meeting with federal prosecutors, the Garner family stood outside a courthouse in Lower Manhattan, convulsing with pain.

"You watched him kill my father," Garner's daughter Emerald Garner shouted as she stood before the cameras, her voice heavy with anger. "Fire him."

Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Police Department delayed disciplinary action against Pantaleo because the Justice Department asked them to wait while it considered whether to prosecute him. On



BRETO MATTHEWS/AP

Gwen Carr, left, mother of Eric Garner, joins a "young people rally in New York on Wednesday to protest the decision not to bring federal civil rights charges against New York City police officer Daniel Pantaleo for the 2014 chokehold death of Garner.

Tuesday, the mayor said waiting so long for the Justice Department to bring charges was a mistake. The Police Department finally began a disciplinary hearing in May, after the Civilian Complaint Review Board brought charges. An administrative judge has yet to decide whether Pantaleo is guilty of departmental charges that he recklessly used a chokehold, in violation of departmental policy, and intentionally restricted Garner's breathing.

Standing in the hot sun outside City Hall on Tuesday, Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, implored de Blasio to fire Pantaleo.

"Do your job," she said. "Come forward and show yourself as the mayor you were elected to be." As she spoke, de Blasio, who won election largely because of support from black New Yorkers while promising to hold the police accountable, was at Grace Mansion, miles away.

City laws seem to preclude the city from firing Pantaleo until the conclusion of the hearing. Given the facts of the case, it's hard to see his continued employment by the Police Department as anything but an insult to the people of New York.

Garner, who was unarmed and supposedly selling loose cigarettes, which is illegal, died because Pantaleo used a chokehold. The Police Department banned the use of chokeholds in 1993 amid a rise in deaths linked to the maneuver.

In searing testimony at the departmental trial this year, the medical examiner said the chokehold triggered an asthma attack that led to Garner's death, which he ruled a homicide.

A police internal affairs investigator also testified that he recommended disciplinary charges against Pantaleo in 2015. None came until last year.

While the judge will decide if Pantaleo's actions violated departmental rules, they clearly violated good sense and demonstrated the kind of overly aggressive policing that has led to many controversial deaths. He chose to escalate an encounter, involving several officers, with an unarmed man over a minor violation, then used a dangerous and banned maneuver.

Video of the episode shows the officer with his arm across Garner's throat.

That Pantaleo could remain on the force, after everything, seems unimaginable.

What message does treatment of Epstein send to all victims?

Miami Herald

After Jeffrey Epstein's arrest, it was not a matter of "if," but "when" Alexander Acosta would step down.

Acosta, the Miami-raised U.S. secretary of labor, did resign July 12 — two days after he tried to make a logical case for the lenient deal he gave sexual predator Epstein; six days after Epstein's arrest in

New Jersey; six months after the Miami Herald Editorial Board first called for Acosta to resign. And 11 years after Acosta did so little to ensure Epstein — alleged to have sexually molested or raped dozens of young girls, some barely in their teens at his mansion in Palm Beach County — landed in prison for a long time.

Acosta broke faith with the young victims of whom Epstein took advantage. Acosta thought so little of them that he didn't bother to inform them that Epstein was going to jail for a ridiculously short period of time. Just this past February, a federal judge in Florida ruled Acosta's egregious misstep illegal. Now that he has resigned as labor secretary, how will Acosta be held accountable for that shameful lapse?

Acosta's decision to keep the public, letting the jet-setter who he forced to register as a sexual offender be released after mere months in jail, free to continue his crimes if he desired, if not in Florida, then anywhere else in the world. Acosta did not deserve to be a public servant.

The Epstein case hit a raw nerve with the public. Justice not only was delayed and denied. It was trampled upon. Of course, Epstein got a light tap on the wrist. Of course, his victims were kept in the dark. Of course, his money and his connections insulated him. Epstein's case is singular because of the number of girls he sexually abused and trafficked, the gaudy depravity of his crimes and his high-value associations in politics, finance and the law.

However, it's also the same old story: the story of a powerful man and his powerless victims. The story of enablers who provided assistance and excuses. The story of men who were believed and women who were dismissed or intimidated into silence.

Epstein was arrested on July 6 on charges of sex trafficking with minors in Florida and New York. He has been a registered sex offender since 2008, when he was convicted of soliciting a 14-year-old girl for prostitution. A pal of Bill Clinton and Donald Trump, Epstein could have faced federal charges in that 2008 case and 45 years behind bars. Instead, Acosta, then the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, agreed to a sweetheart plea deal. It was a third-rate consolation prize for victims and for the Palm Beach police and prosecutors who had worked the case.

Last November, the Miami Herald published Julie K. Brown's three-part series, "Perversion of Justice," identifying 80 girls and young women whom Epstein had allegedly molested from 2001 to 2006.

There is some evidence that Americans finally are becoming more serious about their response to sexual abuse. It can be found in the lengthening list of high-profile sex abusers who have lost the immunity they once enjoyed, in #MeToo and in the revulsion that greeted a New Jersey judge's

lenient sentence recently for a young rapist from a "good family." But, of course, this is a country in which several women have credibly accused the president — the president! — of sexual violence, and the media have become blasé about it.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 63 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. Survivors remain silent because they dread being blamed, shamed and doubted — even though the NSVRC says the prevalence of false reporting is no greater in cases of sexual abuse than for other crimes.

Rape suspects are innocent until proven guilty, and many are found guilty and receive tough sentences, but not enough. When one in four girls is sexually abused before her 18th birthday, according to the NSVRC, and when one in five women is raped during her lifetime, crimes of sexual violence and exploitation cannot be minimized or excused, no matter how rich or powerful the perpetrator is — or how poor and nondescript the victims.

Be alert for hints often given ahead of mass shootings

Chicago Tribune

A cliché about mass shootings is that someone often will say what a nice, quiet neighbor the person was before the eruption. A new study of mass attacks in America suggests quite the opposite — and that perhaps more of these rampages can be prevented.

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center studied 27 incidents in 2018 in which a total of nearly 200 people were killed or injured in public spaces, including Mercy Hospital in Chicago and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. The findings don't at all suggest that perpetrators had gone unnoticed. In fact, the police often had seen previous signs of strain.

Rather, researchers found that most attacks were motivated by specific grievances. Two-thirds of offenders had histories of mental health symptoms, though mental illness alone is not a risk factor for violence. New Orleans police officers also had made threats, or said or done things that raised concerns in people around them.

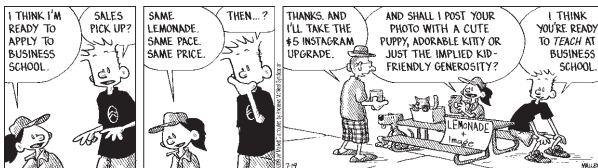
Three-quarters had experienced a major stress event. They had gotten a divorce. They'd lost their job or been kicked out of school. The future, for whatever reason, looked bleak, and disturbing behavior was escalating.

Last February in Aurora, Ill., Gary Martin killed five co-workers and injured five police officers at manufacturer Henry Pratt Co. He had a history of violent behavior going back two decades, including shooting a friend and threatening to kill another. On the day of the shootings, he warned a co-worker that "If I get fired, I'm going to kill every mother (expletive) here" and "I am going to blow police up," according to the Kane County state's attorney's office. That was an extreme example, and of course hindsight is 20/20. An observer should note that if someone seems really serious about wanting to commit a crime, he'd have the sense to keep quiet about it. But rather than plotting in secret, these perpetrators tend to strew around plenty of hints.

The need to pick up on those clues is not a license to report people to bosses, school officials or the police for no reason. Rather, it's about understanding how to recognize and respond to red flags in family, acquaintances, co-workers or fellow students, and making it more routine to report behavior that seems out of line and escalating. Law enforcement agencies that accept tips and connect dots whenever possible.

Very few people commit mass violence, and it can't all be stopped by personal vigilance on the part of others. But the picture forming here is worth understanding. Given the heavy toll of these incidents, finding even a single attack can save quite a few lives.

Frazz



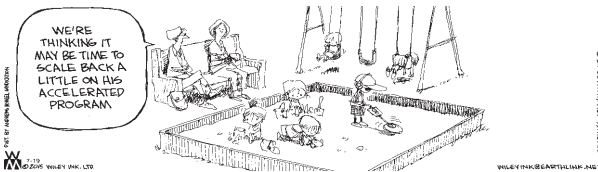
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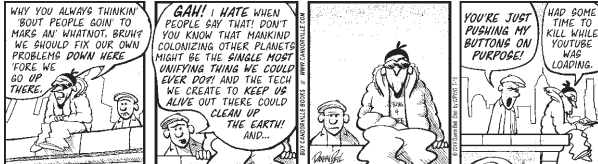
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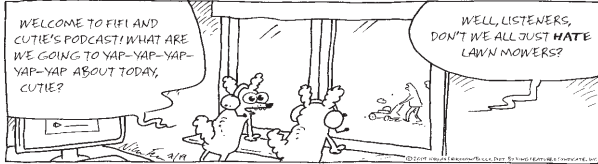
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Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- Mac rivals
- Thick chunk
- Barak of Israel
- Decay
- Diamond
- NBA's Archibald
- Salary parity championed by NOW
- "The Good Earth" heroine
- Wilma's hubby
- Easy, as a job
- Some jobs
- Urban haze
- Elevator name
- 25 Old

- communication device
- "— you serious?"
- 31 Pleasantly warm
- Victory sign
- 32 Bonus for a job well done
- 34 Navy commando
- 35 Group of two
- 36 Cheerful
- 37 Tennis star
- Becker
- 40 Tub session
- 41 "Peek- —"
- 42 Worker's compensation
- 46 Lean to one side

DOWN

- Mimic
- Rich soil
- French 101 verb
- Leafy lunch
- "Goodness!"
- Mama's mate
- "Psst!"
- Close
- Slither
- Season opener?
- au vin
- More pompous
- Shoe parts
- "Dragnet" org.
- "Eureka!"
- Purchase
- "Stop already!"
- Dutch painter
- Frans
- Hexagonal state
- 11 Say it isn't so
- tooth
- 45 Beer barrel

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	M	E	S		W	A	N		E	S	A	U
L	L	U	L		A	B	U		L	A	H	R
E	T	O	N		Y	E	T		I	R	A	N
S	E	N	D		I	N		C	A	S	A	
				A	V	E	R	A	G	E	J	O
C	A	T	E	S		U	S	E		E	V	E
O	W	E	S		O	R	E		E	V	I	L
N	H	L		B	R	A		P	L	O	D	S
J	O	E	C		C	O	L	L	E	G	E	
				T	A	D	A		M	A	G	P
D	A	H	L		N	A	B		A	L	T	O
I	D	O	L		D	Y	E		N	E	O	N
M	E	N	S		O	E	R		T	A	R	S

7-19

CRYPTOQUIP

PUXICYO AXZGPGTI KEU KTZ
WTAUXZ WUY VGLGIV ULNYMO
FYTATCGP YNIFGCGUIZ UW
ZUIVZ: ETAAO KOINCCN.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS MAKE HUMOROUS MISTAKES IN SPEECH, WOULD PEOPLE CALL THOSE SOONERISMS?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals C

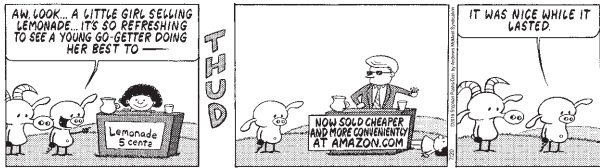
Frazz



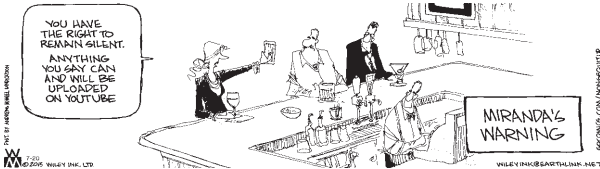
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19					20		
				21	22			23	24			
25	26	27						28		29	30	31
32								33				
34					35			36				
				37				38				
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Lima's land
- 5 Shark variety
- 9 Sales rep.
- 12 On
- 13 Arkin of "Argo"
- 14 Bill's partner
- 15 Golf hazard
- 16 Manhattan area
- 17 Bathroom, to a Londoner
- 18 Roll call reply
- 19 Cardinal cap letters
- 20 Galoot
- 21 Fish eggs
- 23 Mil. morale booster
- 25 Decathlon event
- 28 On the job
- 32 Future oak
- 33 Haunting
- 34 Subtract
- 36 Mattress part
- 37 Mermaid's home
- 38 Superlative suffix
- 39 Bulletproof garment
- 42 Laundry holder
- 44 Admin. aide
- 48 Sort
- 49 Trudge
- 50 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 51 Yale grad

DOWN

- 52 Apportion fraction
- 53 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 54 Enervate
- 55 Luminary
- 56 Wise one
- 22 Pound
- 24 Dance moves
- 25 Pop
- 26 Bar cubes
- 27 Turf
- 29 "... — quit!"
- 30 — Tin Tin
- 31 Beer barrel
- 35 iPad, for one
- 36 Return address name
- 39 Competes
- 40 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 41 Leave out
- 43 Teeny bit
- 45 Actress Ward
- 46 Unforeseen problem
- 47 Story
- 49 Evening hrs.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	C	S		S	L	A	B		E	H	U	D
R	O	T		O	A	H		N	A	T	E	
E	Q	U	A	L	P	A		Y		O	L	A
			F	R	E	D			C	U	S	H
L	E	F	T	S		S	M	O	G			
O	T	I	S		P	A	Y		P	H	O	N
A	R	E		B	A	L	M		V	E	E	
M	E	R	I	T	P	A		Y		S	E	A
			D	U	A	D		M	E	R	R	Y
B	O	R	I	S		B	A	T	H			
A	B	O	O		P	A	Y		C	H	E	C
T	I	L	T		A	L	T	O		R	O	E
S	T	E	S		T	E	E	N		E	G	G

7-20

CRYPTOQUIP

H L E R S Q R C F H J Y R M S M P I
I M S C X E H M L V P M O V H D O S J
R C L P H F H D D S M W H C J X M R S J

"FRQS YS HDD WPNM YPCSL!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COUNTRY MUSICIAN WHO WAS FAMOUS FOR GIVING OVERLY DRAMATIC RENDITIONS OF SONGS: HAMMY WYNETTE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Dental

902

Transportation

944

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Cycling

Tour de France

Wednesday
At Tignes, France
11th Stage

103.8 miles toward the Pyrenees from Albi to Toulouse, with a Category 3 and a climb over the first half.

1. Caleb Ewan, Australia, Lotto Soudal, 3:25:26.

2. Dylan Groenewegen, Netherlands, Jumbo-Visma, same time.

3. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, same time.

4. Peter Sagan, Slovakia, Bora-Hansgrohe, same time.

5. Jens Debussche, Belgium, Katusha Alpecin, same time.

6. Sonny Colbrelli, Italy, Bahrain-Merida, same time.

7. Jasper Philipsen, Belgium, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

8. Cees Bol, Netherlands, Sunweb, same time.

9. Alexander Kristoff, Norway, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

10. Warren Barguil, France, Arkas-Samsic, same time.

11. Andrea Pasqualun, Italy, Wanty-Gobert, same time.

12. Niccolò Bonifazio, Italy, Total Direct Energie, same time.

13. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, same time.

14. Mike Teunissen, Netherlands, Jumbo-Visma, same time.

15. Maximiliano Richeze, Argentina, Decuninck-QuickStep, same time.

16. Julian Holler, Austria, Katusha Alpecin, same time.

17. Alexander Kristoff, Norway, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

18. Oliver Naesen, Belgium, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.

19. Steven Kruijswijk, Netherlands, Jumbo-Visma, same time.

20. Dan Martin, Germany, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

Also

21. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana, same time.

22. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, same time.

23. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Ineos, same time.

24. Romain Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.

25. Rigoberto Urán Colombia, EF Education First, same time.

31. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama-France, same time.

32. Adam Yates, Britain, Mitchelton-Scott, same time.

33. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, same time.

34. Romain Quintana, United States, Dimension Data, 17:17 behind.

35. Jojo Rosskopf, United States, CCC, 1:10 behind.

36. Chad Haggan, United States, Sunweb, 1:10 behind.

Overall Standings (After 11 stages)

1. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Decuninck-QuickStep, 47:18:41.

2. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, 1:16:12.

3. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, 1:16:12.

4. Steven Kruijswijk, Netherlands, Jumbo-Visma, 1:21:27.

5. Adam Yates, Britain, Mitchelton-Scott, 1:45.

6. Nairo Quintana, Spain, Decuninck-QuickStep, 1:46.

7. Adam Yates, Britain, Mitchelton-Scott, 1:46.

8. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, 2:04.

9. Dan Martin, Ireland, UAE Team Emirates, 2:09.

10. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama-France, 2:23.

11. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama-France, 2:23.

12. Rigoberto Urán Colombia, EF Education First, 2:31.

13. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 2:31.

14. Romain Bardet, France, Baulme Molma, 2:31.

15. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana, 3:22.

16. Warren Barguil, France, Arkas-Samsic, 3:22.

17. Roman Kreuziger, Czech Republic, Dimension Data, 3:28.

18. Xandro Meurisse, Belgium, Wanty-Gobert, 3:28.

19. Richie Port, Australia, Trek-Segafredo, 3:29.

20. Mike Landa, Spain, Movistar, 4:15.

Also

82. Jojo Rosskopf, United States, Dimension Data, 1:04:03.

83. Chad Haggan, United States, Sunweb, 1:46:55.

Tennis

World TeamTennis

Springfield W L Pts GB
Philadelphia 3 0 1,000 1/2
San Diego 3 1 750 1/2
Orlando 2 2 500 1 1/2
New York 2 2 333 2
Vegas 1 3 250 2 1/2
Orange County 1 3 250 2 1/2
Washington 0 2 000 2 1/2

Tuesday's matches

New York 2-0, Vegas 1-0
Orange County 2-3, Philadelphia 1-5
San Diego 2-0, Washington 1-3
Springfield 2-3, Orlando 1-5

Wednesday's matches

Philadelphia 2-1, Vegas 1-0
Orange County at Washington, p.p.d.
Springfield 2-5, Orlando 1-5
Springfield 2-5, New York 1-3

Thursday's matches

Orange County at New York
Philadelphia at Orlando
Washington at Springfield

Friday's matches

Washington at New York
Orlando at Philadelphia
Vegas at San Diego

Hall of Fame Open

Wednesday
At The Internationals, Hall of Fame
Newport, R.I.

Purse: \$585,835 (ATP250)

Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Singles
Alexander Bublik (7), Kazakhstan, def. Viktor Troicki (3), 6-3, 6-3.

Second Round
Nicol Pietrangeli, Spain, def. Denis Kudla, United States, 6-2, 6-2.

Jordan Thompson (3), Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Tennys Sandgren, United States, 6-4, 6-3.

Adrian Panatta (2), France, 6-1, 6-3.

Mischa Zverev, Germany, def. Guido Andreessen (1), Netherlands, 6-3, 6-3.

John Isner (1), United States, def. Kamil Majchrzak, Poland, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Sergiy Stakhovych, Ukraine, def. Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Andrei Sitak (2), New Zealand, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 11-9.

First Round
Matthew Edwards, Australia, and Robert Lindstedt, Sweden, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, and Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, 6-2, 6-2.

Bradley Klahn and Denis Kudla, United States, def. Thiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi (1), Pakistan, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 14-12.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Sergiy Stakhovych, Ukraine, def. Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Andrei Sitak (2), New Zealand, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 11-9.

Croatia Open

Wednesday
AT ATP Stadium Croatia Ivanisevic

Purse: \$590,835 (ATP250)

Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
Attila Balazs, Hungary, def. Filip Krajinovic (6), Serbia, 6-3, 6-7 (1), 7-6 (5).

Stefano Travaglia, Italy, def. Fabio Fognini (1), Italy, 4-2, 1-2 retired.

Lisio Djere (3), Serbia, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Exhibition
Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia, def. Pat Rafter, Australia, 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles
Tomislav Brkic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Mateo Pantic, Croatia, def. Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Andrey Rublev, Russia, and Andrei Vasilevski, Belarus, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, def. Andrius Andrius and Gerard Granollers, Spain, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Andrey Rublev, Russia, and Andrei Vasilevski, Belarus, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals
Oliver Marach, Austria, and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals
Oliver Marach, Austria, and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals
Oliver Marach, Austria, and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals
Oliver Marach, Austria, and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals
Oliver Marach, Austria, and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Ladies Open Lausanne

Wednesday
Tennis Club Stade Lausanne
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
Han Xinyun, China, def. Ludmila Samsonova, Russia, 7-5, 6-4.

Second Round
Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Russia, def. Daria Gavrilova (7), Australia, 6-3, 6-2.

Bernarda Pera, Italy, def. Caroline Garcia (2), France, 6-2, 6-4.

Elina Ermi, Finland, def. Jasmin Paolini, Italy, 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles
Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, and Elena Shubina (4), Japan, def. Anika Raina, India, and Rosalie van der Hoek, Netherlands, 3-6, 6-4, 10-6.

Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Igor Zelenh, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Andrius Andrius, Lithuania, and Cedric-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier and Rudolf Molnar, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals
Oliver Marach, Austria, and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nikola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.

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NFL

Questions abound for training camp

Here are eight of the biggest to be answered

By JOHN CLAYTON

Special to the Washington Post

The Denver Broncos will be the first NFL team to open training camp when rookies and veterans report for work Wednesday. What story lines will dominate the discussion as teams get back on the practice field? Let's take a look at eight big questions entering training camp:

1 Will the Los Angeles Rams see a drop-off on offense?

The Sean McVay-led Rams were tough to stop last season — until a 13-3 Super Bowl loss to the New England Patriots. The offensive issues amplified during that loss could carry over in this season.

The health of star running back Todd Gurley is a concern. He has an arthritic knee and probably will need to take on a greatly reduced workload, possibly ceding snaps to third-round draft pick Darrell Henderson. Not only will Gurley almost certainly sit out the preseason, but it's going to be tough for him to handle tight end turnovers, such as the Oct. 3 Thursday night game at the Seattle Seahawks, which comes just four days after a home game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

He's not the only injury concern on offense: Wide receiver Cooper Kupp is recovering from an ACL tear. The offensive line lost Rodger Saffold and John Sullivan this offseason, too.

2 How will the Kansas City Chiefs adjust if Tyreek Hill is suspended?

It remains unclear whether — and for how long — Hill will be suspended by the NFL following a law enforcement investigation into suspicions of child abuse. While the on-field ramifications pale in comparison to the severity of the allegations, Hill's absence would have a significant impact on the Chiefs' offense.

It was already unrealistic to expect quarterback Patrick Mahomes to match last year's total of 50 touchdowns, given that when Dan Marino, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady produced 50-plus-touchdown seasons, they dropped into the 30s the next year. Hill, the team's top playmaker, opens things up for Mahomes and coach Andy Reid, and while the Chiefs traded up to draft Mecole Hardman in the second round as a potential Hill replacement, it's unlikely he can make an immediate impact anywhere close to what Hill provides.

3 What will a healthy Cam Newton mean for the Carolina Panthers?

It's unlikely that Newton plays much in the preseason, but as he returns to the field following two shoulder surgeries



JOHN SLEEZER, KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill may be facing a suspension for child abuse.

over the past three seasons, he has to decide whether he's ready to play a different type of football. The quarterback loves using his 6-foot-5, 245-pound frame to punish the opposing defense in the running game — he has averaged more than 100 rushing attempts per season — but he must avoid making contact so often if he is to stay healthy.

Last season, the extra contact caught up to him, and he could no longer throw deep. Newton is a career 60% passer, but he has the creative mind of offensive coordinator Norv Turner working for him, and if he's healthy, Carolina could surprise in the NFC South.

4 What will the New York Jets get out of Le'Veon Bell?

After missing last sea-

son with his holdout, Bell stayed away from organized team activities to get his body ready for the season, and he only attended two minicamp practices.

That makes him something of an unknown as training camp starts, and he hasn't had any time to work with second-year quarterback Sam Darnold. Bell is 27, so he should still be in his prime, but if he didn't do a good job of preparing himself for the season, he could be vulnerable to an injury. Coach Adam Gase probably won't play him in the preseason, but the Jets have to figure out how he fits into their offense.

5 How will Kliff Kingsbury's Air Raid offense — and Kyler Murray — work in the NFL?

Each year, NFL coaches incorporate more plays from college spread and Air Raid offenses. But the Arizona Cardinals are making the most dramatic jump yet behind Kingsbury, a first-year head coach with no NFL coaching experience, and Murray, the first pick of the draft.

Since 2012, nearly two-thirds of all rookie starting QBs completed less than 60% of their passes. That won't work in the Air Raid, which requires a high completion percentage to operate effectively, meaning Kingsbury will need Murray to be on target from the start.

Some are skeptical, but if this works, it could lead to more owners trying to lure college offensive coaches to the NFL. It could



BOB ANDRES, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS

Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley may still be hindered by the effects of an arthritic knee that slowed him in the playoffs.

make Washington State's Mike Leach a popular target.

6 Will HBO's "Hard Knocks" have a negative impact on the Oakland Raiders?

Jon Gruden has his hands full. He's got to make things work with veterans Antonio Brown, Vontaze Burfict and Richie Incognito, in addition to getting an early impact from the team's three first-

round draft picks. The Raiders have the toughest schedule in the NFL, including a brutal road slate that has them playing away from home for two months.

The presence of HBO cameras will make things more difficult. The Raiders were a no-brainer pick for the show from a fan and league perspective, but for the team, it's a different story. We'll see how Gruden and the Raiders handle the spotlight.

7 Will the Buffalo Bills' new additions help quarterback Josh Allen?

The Bills may have four new starters on the offensive line after signing six linemen in free agency and drafting Cody Ford in the second round. They also added three wide receivers, two tight ends and two running backs.

All of the moves were geared toward getting help for Allen, the second-year quarterback who was considered the most raw passer in his draft class. The good news for coach Sean McDermott is that Buffalo's defense, which finished second in the league in yards allowed last year and added defensive tackle Ed Oliver with the draft's ninth pick, should again be very good.

8 Who will be the starting quarterbacks in Washington and Miami?

The NFL's best quarterback battles involve Josh Rosen and Ryan Fitzpatrick of the Dolphins, and Dwayne Haskins, Case Keenum and Colt McCoy of the Redskins. Good preseasons could give the edge to Rosen and Haskins, given their youth and upside, but if they aren't ready, the veterans could get the nod, at least in Week 1.



DAVID T. FOSTER III, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton has had two shoulder surgeries the past three seasons.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man with irritated eye has tick removed

KY PRESTONSBURG — A Kentucky man who went to the doctor with an irritated eye got the unsavory news that it contained a tick.

WYMT-TV reported an optometrist used tweezers to remove the tick from Chris Prater's eye.

Prater works for an electric company and had left a job site where his crew had removed a tree from power lines when his eye started bothering him.

He noticed a tiny spot on his eye and tried to flush it several times to no avail.

After numbing Prater's eye, the doctor removed the tick.

Police: Man threw pool balls, attacked trooper

VT NEWPORT — Court documents allege an out-of-control bar patron hit a state trooper, threw food and pool balls, threatened a person with a knife and slashed tires.

Benjamin Clarke, 51, of East Haven pleaded not guilty to charges including aggravated assault on a police officer at a bar in Barton.

Court documents indicate Clarke threw pool balls, threatened a person with a knife and slashed tires in the parking lot.

WPTZ-TV reported that Clarke was a part-time instructor at Northern Vermont University but is not currently teaching at the school.

City hopes kids' songs will drive homeless away

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Officials in West Palm Beach are hoping a continuous loop of children's songs played throughout the night will keep homeless people from sleeping on the patio of a city-owned rental banquet facility.

West Palm Beach parks and recreation director Leah Rockwell told the Palm Beach Post they're trying to discourage people from camping out along the glass-walled Lake Pavilion. She said the pavilion rakes in some \$240,000 annually from events.

The loop of "Baby Sharks" and "Raining Tacos" is a temporary fix. Rockwell said the city wants to formalize hours for the park, which should make it easier to enforce trespassing laws.

Dad builds his son \$30K 'Field of Dreams'

OH BROOKFIELD — An Ohio boy's wish for a "Field of Dreams" became reality two years later.

Jason Kidd initially ignored a request from his 3-year-old son to build a baseball field in the backyard of their Brookfield home in northeastern Ohio.

But a few days later he realized their backyard could fit a whiffle ball field.

Kidd estimates he has spent \$30,000 on the clay infield, regulation bases, raised pitcher's mounds and foul lines that he painted himself.



RIK BOWMER/AP

Cattle at the Capitol

Longhorn cattle walk across the front lawn of the Capitol during a cattle drive to kick off Utah's rodeo week Tuesday in Salt Lake City. The cattle drive was a promotion for the annual "Days of '47" celebration in Utah, an event that commemorates Brigham Young bringing Latter-day Saint pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley. Gov. Gary Herbert signed a proclamation commemorating the Days of '47.

The family calls the field "The Re-Jake" in a nod to Jacobs Field, the original name of the Cleveland Indians home ballpark.

Couple finds bullet hole in ceiling, cat shot

VA NEWPORT NEWS — A Virginia couple who found a bullet hole in the ceiling of their apartment is mourning the loss of their cat.

News outlets reported Timothy and Bianca Masters came home from a wedding July 7 to find their 11-month-old cat, Bowie, injured. The couple called 911 and took him to a veterinarian. They say Bowie had surgery but his condition declined and he had to be put down.

Newport News police said in a statement that Aren Floryanzia, 25, had shot through the floor of the apartment above the Masters' home during a party the night before. He's charged with property damage and a weapons offense.

Dog stranded on steep hillside for days rescued

OR CANBY — The Oregon Humane Society said a dog that had been stranded on a steep hillside south of Portland for about a week was rescued. The Humane Society said neighbors in the Canby area

THE CENSUS

1K

The approximate number of guns seized during a raid at a Los Angeles mansion. Girard Saenz, 58, pleaded not guilty to dozens of felonies. He was charged with 64 counts including 23 counts of possession of an assault weapon. Saenz was arrested in May after authorities, acting on a tip about illegal firearms sales, searched a multimillion-dollar home on the border of Bel Air and Holmby Hills.

called them Monday with reports of hearing an animal in distress.

The Humane Society Technical Animal Rescue Team first used a drone to find the animal on the hillside.

Team training coordinator Virginia Krakowiak then descended approximately 75 feet to rescue the dog described as an older Australian Shepherd mix.

She said the dog appeared uninjured but thirsty and hungry.

Big firework plan sparks worry in community

WY GILLETTE — Plans to shoot off an enormous firework during a pyrotechnics convention worry some residents of a Wyoming community.

Pyrotechnics Guild International will hold its annual convention in Gillette in August.

One feature of the event will be setting off an enormous, mortar-style firework. The handmade shell measures 36 inches wide.

Some locals worry the big boom

will be too close to their homes.

Guild President Paul Smith told the Gillette News-Record his organization is scouting out different locations.

Fossil found in 1980s declared new species

TX BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — Experts said fossil remains discovered in the 1980s at a park in southwest Texas have been identified as a new genus and species of duck-billed dinosaur.

Officials with Big Bend National Park announced details of the creature named *Aquilarihinus palmentus* for its aquiline nose and shovel-shaped jaw.

Texas Tech University professor Tom Lehman discovered the fossil.

The peculiar lower jaw was noted, but it wasn't until recently that researchers determined the specimen was more primitive than prior identified duckbilled dinosaurs.

Mammoth ski season won't make it to August

CA MAMMOTH LAKES — The Mammoth Mountain resort in the Eastern Sierra had hoped a winter of epic snowfall would allow skiing into August but instead will end its season this month.

The resort said weather has been heating up and the remaining snow is melting fast.

The last day for skiing and riding will be on July 28.

Mammoth accumulated 718 inches of snow at its summit and 492 inches at the main lodge this season.

Couple survives crash with half-ton moose

MN DULUTH — A young couple was hospitalized in Duluth after surviving a collision with a half-ton bull moose on a dark northern Minnesota highway.

Amaya Nelson, 17, was behind the wheel and her boyfriend, Remington Dellinger, 22, was a passenger when they crashed into the moose with their small car.

Amaya's dad, Scott Nelson, said first responders told him it was a miracle the two survived the crash, which sent their car down an embankment.

From wire reports

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/AUTO RACING



BEN MARGOT/AP

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said the Tide have learned from their 44-16 title-game loss to Clemson.

Tagovailoa says Bama has learned from defeat

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala. — It's easier for Alabama to be humble now.

The Crimson Tide can thank Clemson for that, at least. There's nothing like a 44-16 drubbing in the national championship game to strip away any feelings of invincibility and self-satisfaction that come from scarcely getting challenged during the regular season on the way to another Southeastern Conference title.

"I know it sounds bad, but I'm glad I had that opportunity to feel a loss like that, because what can you learn from winning?" Tua Tagovailoa and Heisman Trophy runner-up Tua Tagovailoa said Wednesday at Southeastern Conference media days. "You can't learn as much. But when you lose, you start appreciating things a lot more. Many lessons have been learned from that loss."

The defense was abused by Trevor Lawrence and the Tigers and allowed 300-plus yards passing in each of its last three games. Tagovailoa — who spent most fourth quarters during the season as a spectator — was intercepted twice, including a pick-six on Alabama's opening series.

But the end result doesn't change the expectations for a team seeking its sixth national title under coach Nick Saban and a fifth SEC title in six years.

Led by Tagovailoa, wide receiver Jerry Jeudy and line-backer Dylan Moses, Alabama approaches this season as one of the national favorites as usual.

"Whether or not people were worried about personal outcomes more than team outcomes, it's always hard to judge that," Saban said. "But it seems like we had a lot of distractions at the end of the year. So, hopefully we learned from those scenarios, and it will help us do the things that we need to do to be able to play to our full potential throughout this season."

Kurt Busch still on track

Despite bumpy career path, driver proves he can still leave his mark

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kurt Busch has been called many things during his tumultuous 20 seasons at NASCAR's top level. He is ornery, easily unhinged and has lost control of his temper enough times that it nearly derailed his career.

But the most important descriptor for Busch is one often overlooked. He is a wheelman, one of the very best in NASCAR, and in the twilight of his career Busch has a chance to make that his lasting mark.

Busch beat his brother head-to-head for the first time at the Cup level in a dramatic, two-lap overtime shootout at Kentucky Speedway for Busch's first victory with new team Chip Ganassi Racing. It was the third time Kurt and Kyle Busch have finished 1-2 in a Cup race, but the first time Kurt got the best of his little brother.

The win came a week after a horrible pit call in Daytona cost Busch and the No. 1 team a victory. Busch had slid through a massive accident unscathed to take the lead, and as NASCAR said the race was one lap away from resuming, crew chief Matt McCall called Busch in for a quick pit stop.

A lightning strike seconds later halted all action and the race was eventually called, costing Busch, McCall and Ganassi the victory.

So how sweet it was Saturday night when McCall used a late call to change four tires, putting Busch in position to challenge for the Kentucky victory when the race took a sudden turn and headed to overtime. Busch charged hard toward the front, eventually got alongside Kyle and neither refused to budge. Their cars touched, wiggled, Kurt appeared to bang the wall, both seemed to hanging onto the steering wheel as if they were racing for the NASCAR championship.

After Kurt got to the checkered flag first, he dove into the arms of his waiting crew, celebrated on the frontstretch, then did an old-school trip to victory lane with his crew riding along on his Chevrolet. One team member proudly waved the checkered flag for the journey.

The victory was the 31st career Cup win for Busch, the 2004 NASCAR champion, and extended his streak of winning at least one race a year to six consecutive seasons. Busch has just three winless years in 19 full Cup seasons — his rookie year, and then in 2012 and 2013 when he was trying to salvage his career after he was fired by Roger Penske for too many public blowups.

But he landed at Furniture Row Racing in 2013 and was the conductor in building a backmarker team into a championship contender. Busch's time with the Colorado-based team was just one season, but his knowledge of race cars and how to get the most out of his equipment set the framework for Martin Truex Jr.'s 2017 championship.

Busch spent five years at Stewart-Haas Racing, overshadowed by Kevin Harvick the entire time, and when a new contract didn't materialize he moved to Ganassi and a struggling Chevrolet group. But if the car isn't competitive, no one bothered to tell Busch, who has been among the top Chevy drivers all year.

He has 11 top-10 finishes through 19 races, and his Kentucky victory was the third consecutive for a resurgent Chevrolet effort. Busch has won with nine different crew chiefs in his Cup career, proving that in his case he can get it done if the car has speed.

Busch still has his cranky side, and he was



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Kurt Busch celebrates his win Saturday in the NASCAR Cup Series race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky. It was the 31st career victory for the oldest Busch brother.

"You come in and you talk a game and you deliver it, and you do it with execution through team meetings, showing up early, staying late, and motivating guys to do a better job."

Kurt Busch

NASCAR Cup Series driver

difficult through the first third of the season with media because he didn't like NASCAR's policy that forced him to meet with reporters after qualifying. At Bristol early in the season, he essentially repeated the same answer verbatim to every question asked: "The car was loose and we didn't get a good time. I did one lap and I'm in here talking for 30th. Car was loose, we didn't get a good time, I don't know what I can help you guys with."

After this weekend's win, Busch insisted he has made gains in all those personal areas that have left black marks on his résumé. He

credited his wife, Ashley, a professional polo player, for helping him see the bigger picture and settle down just a bit.

"The power of positivity is something she's taught me over these few years," he said. "You come in and you talk a game and you deliver it, and you do it with execution through team meetings, showing up early, staying late, and motivating guys to do a better job. And the way that I've won races in the past, I try to go after the weakness of a team and try to fix that first and then start to make things better as we go."

MLB

Scoreboard

American League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	33	26	69.5	—
Tampa Bay	56	41	27	67.7	6
Boston	52	44	24	64.2	9½
Toronto	36	61	37	26	32
Baltimore	29	68	39	25	32
	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	58	36	26	68.7	—
Cleveland	54	40	27	66.7	4
Chicago	42	50	45	48.3	15
Kansas City	35	62	36	24.9	24½
Detroit	29	62	31	27.7	27½
	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	60	37	26	69.1	—
Oakland	55	41	27	67.3	4½
Texas	50	46	32	60.9	9½
Los Angeles	50	47	31	61.5	10
Seattle	39	60	39	24	22

National League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	58	39	29	66.9	—
Washington	50	44	32	60.9	6½
Philadelphia	49	47	31	61.0	8½
New York	44	51	46	48.9	13
Miami	35	58	38	27.1	21
	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	54	44	24	69.2	—
Milwaukee	50	47	31	61.5	2½
St. Louis	48	46	31	60.9	3
Pittsburgh	45	50	47	48.4	6½
Cincinnati	43	50	46	48.2	7½
	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	64	34	26	70.6	—
Arizona	49	47	31	61.0	14
San Francisco	47	49	49	49.0	16
San Diego	43	50	46	48.4	18
Colorado	46	50	47	49.1	17

Wednesday's games
 Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.
 N.Y. Mets 14, Minnesota 4
 Oakland 10, Seattle 2
 Baltimore 9, Washington 2
 Boston 5, Toronto 1
 Cleveland 7, Detroit 2
 Arizona 19, Texas 4
 Kansas City 7, Chicago White Sox 5
 Houston 11, L.A. Angels 2
 St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 5
 Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 2
 San Francisco 11, Colorado 8
 L.A. Dodgers 7, Philadelphia 2
 San Diego 3, Miami 2

Thursday's games
 Toronto at Boston
 Chicago White Sox at Kansas City
 Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees
 Detroit at Cleveland
 Oakland at Minnesota
 Houston at L.A. Angels
 San Diego at Miami
 L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia
 St. Louis at Cincinnati
 Washington at Atlanta
 Milwaukee at Arizona
 N.Y. Mets at San Francisco

Friday's games
 Boston (Price 7-2) at Baltimore (Means 7-5)
 Colorado (Freeland 2-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Kemp 7-5)
 Chicago White Sox (Lopez 4-8) at Tampa Bay (TBD)
 Kansas City (Montgomery 1-2) at Cleveland (Bieber 3-3)
 Toronto (Strasburg 1-10) at Detroit (Zimmerman 0-6)
 Toronto (Strasburg 1-10) at Minnesota (Odorizzi 11-4)
 Houston (Verlander 11-4)
 L.A. Angels (TBD) at Seattle (League 7-8)
 San Diego (Lauer 5-7) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 5-6)
 Philadelphia (Arrieta 6-7) at Pittsburgh (Lyles 5-6)
 St. Louis (Wainwright 6-7) at Cincinnati (Mahle 2-10)
 Washington (Corbin 7-5) at Atlanta (Soroka 10-1)
 Houston (Clarke 2-3) at Arizona (Clarke 2-3)
 Oakland (Gallen 0-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 10-2)
 N.Y. Mets (deGrom 5-7) at San Francisco (Giles 3-9)

Saturday's games
 Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay
 Toronto at Detroit
 Boston at Baltimore
 Kansas City at Cleveland
 Oakland at Minnesota
 Texas at Houston
 L.A. Angels at Seattle
 N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees
 San Diego at Chicago Cubs
 L.A. Angels at San Francisco
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
 St. Louis at Cincinnati
 Washington at Atlanta
 Milwaukee at Arizona
 Miami at L.A. Dodgers

Sunday's games
 Colorado at N.Y. Yankees
 Baltimore at Baltimore
 St. Louis at Cincinnati
 Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay
 Toronto at Detroit
 Kansas City at Cleveland
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
 Texas at Houston
 Oakland at Minnesota
 San Diego at Chicago Cubs
 N.Y. Mets at San Francisco
 Milwaukee at Arizona
 L.A. Angels at Seattle
 Miami at L.A. Dodgers
 Washington at Atlanta

Calender
 July 21 — Hall of Fame induction, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Approach: Martinez adored by fans across Pacific Northwest after 18 seasons with M's

FROM BACK PAGE

"I think it's like anything — if you want to do it right and do well you have to practice," Martinez said. "In a way it's true, it's like that. You're preparing for some performance, whether it's hitting in a game or a speech."

Martinez will go into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, the first player to spend his entire career with the Seattle Mariners — 18 seasons in all — and find his way into Cooperstown.

His numbers are staggering, yet often overlooked as most of his career was spent tucked away in the Pacific Northwest on a team that until the magical 1995 season got little notice on the national stage.

Martinez hit .312 with 309 home runs in 2,055 career games with the Mariners. His numbers would be even more impressive if he had broken into the majors earlier. Martinez never played more than 100 games in the majors until he was 27.

"Day in and day out, he was prepared," teammate Ken Griffey Jr. said. "Thirty, 40 years ago a DH was an older guy who was on his way out, but a fan favorite, they wanted to keep him around. Now, it's guys who can flat hit and get a chance to go out and play every day."

"And he made that all possible." Whether it's the pride of joining the fraternity of Puerto Rican players or his affection for the only franchise he's ever been associated with, Martinez is grateful to those who helped along the way.

"A lot of people play a role in my success and just keep it condensed and within 12 minutes. I'm close to having it just right," Martinez said of his induction speech.

Tom Davidson was one of those who helped.

"We told him, 'Give us 10 days and let's see what you think of it,'" Davidson recalled.

Nicknamed the "eye guy" by teammates, Davidson and Martinez started working together in the late 1990s. For nearly a decade, Martinez had been doing eye exercises after

Dr. Douglas Nikaita had diagnosed the eye condition. Davidson's technique became another step in the eye training. He developed a system using tennis balls traveling at high rates of speed to help strengthen and train the eye for recognizing pitches.

The training involved watching the tennis balls, which had small numbers written on them, and trying to focus the eyes to read and recognize the numbers as they buzzed by, sometimes as fast as 150 mph.

Martinez hit .305 over his final seven seasons after first working with Davidson. He twice led the league in on-base percentage during that span and had a career-high 145 RBIs in 2000 at age 37.

Those swings during the back-half of his career may not have been as impressive as what he did one day in Houston just a couple of years ago.

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Angels pitcher Noe Ramirez has been suspended for three games and fined an undisclosed amount for throwing a pitch in the area of Houston outfielder Jake Marisnick's head, and Los Angeles manager Brad Ausmus has been suspended a game and fined.

Joe Torre, Chief Baseball Officer for Major League Baseball, announced the penalties Wednesday, a day after



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

The Mariners' Edgar Martinez tips his cap to the crowd as he is introduced for the team's season opener against the Chicago White Sox in Seattle on April 1, 2002. Martinez hit .312 with 309 home runs in 2,055 career games with the Mariners. His numbers would be even more impressive if he had broken into the majors earlier — Martinez never played more than 100 games in the majors until he was 27.

Scott Servais had never crossed paths with Martinez until being hired as Seattle's manager in 2016. Martinez was the hitting coach under the previous regime and remained on staff. Other than knowing Martinez's reputation as a hitter during the era both played, Servais rarely saw him in action.

Until one day in Houston during a session of early batting practice.

"We had another 20 minutes or whatever and I said 'Edgar you want some?'" Servais recalled.

What happened when the man in his mid-50s stepped in?

"He threw somebody's sweaty batting

gloves on and grabbed their bat and got in there, and about the third or fourth swing he's peppering them off the wall out there and up on the train tracks," Servais said. "You never forget those types of things."

What Servais may not have known was Martinez had spent time in the batting cage for about a week, watching pitches and taking a few swings. He wasn't about to be unprepared.

"I did have some practice," he said. "It's excitement about it. In a way, a little bit of adrenaline, too. It was fun. It was fun to do it. I'm not ready to do it again."

Ramirez drilled Marisnick between the shoulder blades with a 1-1 pitch in the sixth inning of the Angels' 7-2 home victory.

Ramirez said he will appeal the suspension. Bench coach Josh Paul will manage the Angels on Wednesday while Ausmus serves his suspension.

"I thought three games for Noe was a little bit steep, but he still has the appeals process to go through," Ausmus said.

Astros manager AJ Hinch said he expected Torre's office to step in after Tuesday's incident. He said he also hopes both teams consider the matter closed.

Marisnick, a native of nearby Riverside, is currently appealing his two-game suspension for the collision. He said he hasn't heard from MLB about when his appeal will be heard and echoed Hinch's comments about hoping that both teams can move forward.



Ramirez

NBA

End of an era

Westbrook last player left from original OKC squad after 2008 move from Seattle

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

‘He was never perfect, but just the emotion he showed — he was very relatable. ... People have always just not appreciated him the way they should have.’

Yusef Maaroof

20-year-old Tulsa resident and Russell Westbrook fan

Yusef Maaroof wanted one more Russell Westbrook memory in Oklahoma City.

When he learned Thursday night the Thunder were planning to send Westbrook to the Houston Rockets for Chris Paul and draft picks, the 20-year-old Tulsa resident planned to make the two-hour drive to Oklahoma City with friends. They wanted to take videos and photos in front of the large images of Thunder players that adorn Chesapeake Energy Arena during the season, hoping Westbrook's photo would still be up on Friday morning.

It wasn't, so Maaroof came up with a different tribute. In a video he posted on Twitter, he put on the Westbrook jerseys he's collected since 2012, took them off one by one and laid them side by side in front of the arena. He wore 18 in the video, which has been viewed

more than 85,000 times.

Maaroof said Westbrook has always been his favorite player. And the next addition to his collection will be a Rockets jersey.

“He was never perfect, but just the emotion he showed — he was very relatable, I feel like,” Maaroof said. “He was the underdog. People have always just not appreciated him the way they should have.”

With their emotional sparkplug gone, the Thunder, as we knew them, are no more. Westbrook was the last remaining player from the team that moved from Seattle to Oklahoma City in 2008.

Kevin Durant, James Harden, Serge

Ibaka, Paul George and others, all gone. Now Westbrook.

He spent his entire 11-year career with the Thunder, despite earlier chances to leave. With Westbrook, the Thunder won at least 45 games for 10 straight years and reached the Western Conference Finals four times, including a run to the NBA Finals in 2012.

“It's a lot of heartbreak,” Maaroof said of recent conversations with his friends. “Not to be dramatic, but it really feels like someone died. We're all 20 years old. We all grew up with Russ, grew up with this team.”

Sure, Westbrook was a league MVP, two-time scoring champion and two-time All-Star

MVP. Yes, he was a freakish athlete and triple-double threat every night. And against the odds, he evolved from perceived ball hog to two-time assist leader.

But it goes beyond that for Thunder fans. Westbrook is from the Los Angeles area, and with it came the flash one might expect. But he adopted Oklahoma and supported the community with his reading rooms, basketball camps, comedy shows and yearly Thanksgiving meal at the Boys and Girls Club in Oklahoma City.

Now, they're left with memories and hopes that the rebuild works out sooner than later. No matter what, though, Westbrook will still have his fans in Oklahoma City.

“I'm still going to be a Thunder fan, but I don't plan on missing a Rockets game this season, either,” Maaroof said.

Russell Westbrook, left, has spent his entire 11-year career with Oklahoma City, helping to lead the Thunder to at least 45 wins for 10 straight years and reaching the Western Conference Finals four times. Next season he will suit up for the Houston Rockets, ending an era for the Thunder that began with the franchise's move to Oklahoma City in 2008.

AP photo



NBA/SOCCER



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Boston Celtics general manager Danny Ainge, center, at the team's practice facility on Wednesday, used new free-agent signee Kemba Walker, left, to encourage another free agent, Enes Kanter, right, to sign with the team.

Rebuilding blocks: Walker, Kanter may give Celtics quick turnaround

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON — Enes Kanter took a playful swipe at him.

Kemba Walker will try to replace him. Kyrie Irving is no longer with the Celtics, but his brief flametout in Boston is still on the minds of fans in the city and even, apparently, players who have yet to play a minute for the team.

On the day that the Celtics introduced Walker as their point guard of the future, Kanter said he chose the No. 11 last worn in Boston by Irving in part because it was his number in Oklahoma City in 2016-17. But he also quoted a commercial in which Irving aspired to have the number retired in his honor.

"I want to be the reason no one else wears it," Kanter said, cracking up himself and the media at the introductory news conference he shared with Walker. "I had to say it."

Irving was the Celtics' big free agency splash two summers ago, when he asked the Cleveland Cavaliers to trade him and they shipped him to Boston for the immensely popular Isaiah Thomas. The Celtics, who had just lost to Cleveland in the conference finals, returned to the East finals the next year — when Irving was injured — but bowed out in the second round this season, when he was healthy.

General manager Danny Ainge took pains to stress that he doesn't blame Irving for the team's disappointing season.

"The last point guard, it didn't end like we wanted this year, but it certainly wasn't his fault," Ainge said.

Irving, who had spoken about his desire to finish his career in Boston — and have his number retired — opted out of his contract and signed with the Brooklyn Nets. Fans were mostly glad to see him go, and Walker played along on Wednesday, joking with a reporter about the Earth being flat — a reference to another famous Irving comment.

Al Horford also jumped ship, meaning the Celtics had lost their biggest acquisition from two of the last three offseasons.

Instead of adding role players to make another run at an 18th NBA title, they needed replacements for their stars. But coach Brad Stevens said he never spent any time worrying about whether the roster was in need of a multi-season rebuild.

"We always go through every scenario," he said. "But nobody was looking at what we weren't going to be. We don't ever look at it that way."

That's when Ainge went to work.

Walker was signed to a four-year, \$141 million deal — the most Boston could offer, but \$80 million less than the Char-

lotte Hornets could have paid him over five seasons. (The Celtics also announced on Wednesday that they have re-signed forward Daniel Theis and guard Brad Wanamaker.)

"This was our Plan A," Ainge said, sitting between Walker and Kanter for the news conference at the team's practice facility. "Getting Kemba was a top priority in free agency."

Walker won the NCAA championship at UConn, beating Stevens' Butler team in the 2011 title game. He referred to the championship banners hanging from the ceiling at the Auerbach Center, and the new Boston Garden, and said he hoped to have a chance to win again after reaching the playoffs just twice, losing in the first round both times, in eight seasons with the Hornets.

"Charlotte is all I've known," he said. "It all came down to my happiness and how I want to compete night in and night out. I was up there. I'm ready to start a new chapter."

Ainge wasted no time — even before Walker agreed to a deal — putting him to work. The GM handed Walker his phone so he could help recruit Kanter.

It worked.

"That made me very excited," Kanter said. "An All-Star guy, a superstar, calling me and saying he wants me to be here. That made me feel very special. I called my manager and said that seems like a good place to be."

Mongolia will host qualifying matches for 2022 World Cup

By JOHN DUERDEN
Associated Press

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — European glamor teams such as Manchester United and Real Madrid do not visit Mongolia on lucrative preseason tours, but this oft-forgotten Asian soccer outpost is about to get a taste of the big time on the qualifying road to the 2022 World Cup.

Soccer is far from the most popular sport in Mongolia but that may start to change after the country was drawn Wednesday with its first appearance in the second round of World Cup qualifying with matches against Japan.

That could mean a visit from Shinji Kagawa on March 31 and other players on the side who compete in the top European leagues. Kagawa is one of the few public signs of the sport on the congested streets of Ulaanbaatar, home to around half of the country's population of three million. The Borussia Dortmund player beams down from billboards that advertise the partnership between the German club and Mongolian Airlines.

"To play a big team like Japan will be very meaningful for Mongolia," national team coach Michael Weiss said. "Football is not a very big thing in Mongolia though there is interest and it is becoming more fashionable."

"Such a game will help promote the sport in a country without genuine professional clubs. More interest and then sponsors come on board then so does the government and then there is progress."

Mongolia, ranked 187th in the world, edged Brunei in the first round in June to earn a place in Group F in the second round and eight much-needed competitive games. The climax will come against Japan. The Samurai Blue, ranked 28th, reached the last 16 of the 2018 World Cup.

They will likely face sub-zero temperatures even at the end of March. The harsh Mongolian climate sees long winters with the mercury ranging from between -4 Fahrenheit to -40F.

"Of course, the climate makes it hard, but even in terms of facilities and general conditions, we are far behind the rest of Asia," Weiss said. "I am not talking about Japan, China or South Korea but places like Bangladesh and Laos — these are the countries we have to compete with."

In order to do so, the other six games in the group are as important as the meetings with Japan. The second stage kicks off on Sept. 5 with a home game with Myanmar before meetings with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Had Mongolia lost to Brunei in June, then there would be no group stage and no competitive games until 2023.

"We would have been out of the picture for a long time if we had lost to Brunei," said Weiss, a veteran manager from Germany who was appointed to the Mongolian role in 2017. "That would have been very bad for us. We need these games so we can get the players together and we can help them develop."

Only the eight group winners and the four best second-place teams progress to the next stage, where Asia's four automatic World Cup spots are up for grabs. That is the target for Japan, but for Mongolia the situation is a little more modest.

"We know that we are not going to be one of the 12 teams that go to the next stage but this is the start of a process for us," Weiss said.

BRITISH OPEN

Ireland brings out the best in Spain's Rahm

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — There's something about playing golf on the island of Ireland that brings out the best in Jon Rahm.

The warmth and pride of the people, the community feel in the fishing villages, even — believe it or not — the weather, all remind him of his modest, coastal hometown of Barrika in Spain's Basque Country region.

Perhaps that's the reason why he has won the Irish Open twice in the past three years, roared on by huge galleries wherever he goes.

And maybe it's what will turn this most fiery of golfers into a major champion this week at Royal Portrush.

Thursday, he was tied for second in the British Open through 16 holes at 4-under.

"It's the closest I'll ever feel to playing at home," Rahm said Wednesday, "without being at home."

The first of his Irish Open victories came just down the road at Portstewart in 2017. He stayed in Portrush that week and recalls going to the Harbour Bistro, one of the liveliest places in town, on six of seven nights.

He shot a closing 65 to win the title — his first on the European Tour — by six shots in a record-breaking total score of 24-under par.

A little more than a year into his pro career at the time, Rahm couldn't remember playing any better and it made him believe he could win the British Open one day.

He hasn't done himself justice in his three appearances at golf's oldest major, finishing 59th and 44th before missing the cut at Carnoustie last year, but a second Irish Open win at Lahinch two weeks ago made him feel good about his links game once again.

He shot 62 to overturn a five-stroke deficit in the final round. "If I ever have doubt, which I shouldn't, I can always remind (myself) that I've been able to win twice here," Rahm said. "That's the reason why I can get it done."

Both of those wins came in relatively mild, wind-free conditions, but it is likely to be different at Royal Portrush this week. It was rainy and blustery Wednesday — Rahm went to the first tee in the morning, spent a few minutes there, and walked inside again — and more of the same is forecast for this week as the event returns

By the numbers

2

Wins for Jon Rahm in the Irish Open over the past three years. The first win, in 2017, was his first on the European Tour.

44th

The top finish for Rahm in three British Opens.

He also finished 59th and last year, at Carnoustie, he missed the cut

4th

Rahm has twice finished fourth in a major, taking fourth in the 2018 Masters and the 2018 PGA Championship.

SOURCE: Associated Press, PGATour.com

to Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years.

Rahm expects to have to grind his way around the Dunluce Links, rely on a bit of luck, and keep mentally strong. That doesn't come easy to a player whose temper has been known to get the better of him.

It might explain why he can lose interest at major championships if he's not in contention. Take his results in the majors over the last two years: Two fourth-place finishes and two missed cuts in 2018, and two top 10s and a missed cut so far in 2019.

"I would like to find the middle ground," Rahm said, "but truth be told, there's not much difference between finishing 50th, 40th and 30th to me, unless you are contending for the tournament. Making the cut or not doesn't make the difference."

Rahm would be the first Spaniard to lift the claret jug since 1988, when the late Seve Ballesteros won the last of his three British Open titles.



PETER MORRISON/AP

At 49, Jim Furyk is having one of his best years in recent memory, with a tie for ninth at the Honda Classic and a runner-up finish at The Players Championship. He was at 2-over 73 on Thursday.

He's nearly 50, but Furyk isn't ready to be forgotten

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Nothing short of an eagle on the 592-yard seventh hole at Royal Portrush was going to win the hole in a friendly fourballs match during practice for the British Open. Leave it to 49-year-old Jim Furyk to have the best chance.

"Don't do anything crazy here," Patrick Cantlay, born the same year Furyk turned pro, said to his opponent.

Furyk's 18-foot putt from below the hole paused on the right edge of the cup before dropping, and he looked over in Cantlay's direction with a grin.

These are good times. Under the circumstances, not many people would have been surprised if Furyk was past his time by now.

He was last seen at the British Open in 2016 at Royal Troon when he finished 29 shots behind the record performance of Henrik Stenson. Furyk played only two majors last year, both on exemptions. He wasn't eligible for any of the World Golf Championships last year for the first time since they were created in 1999.

Small wonder that fans who recognized him in the airport on his way to Northern Ireland asked if he was playing.

He is, and he shot a 2-over 73 in Thursday's first round.

"I thought that was kind of funny," Furyk said.

He has heard a lot of questions over the last decade that he found funny, if not irritating. One that still sticks with him was a writer who asked him 10 years ago if he feared the game was passing him by.

"I wouldn't say it (ticked) me off, but I kind of chuckled," Furyk said Tuesday. "I said, 'Yeah, it's going to pass me by some day, but not now.' The next year, I had my best year and was player of the year."

It's not just about age.

Phil Mickelson is 49, born a month after Furyk, and he won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Mickelson is a special talent, with five majors and one of his 47 victories worldwide coming when he was still in college.

Part of it is devoting nearly two years of his life as Ryder Cup captain, with players appointed in their late 40s toward the end of their careers. Most are rarely heard from again on a big stage, with one exception being Davis Love III — another power

'The game is always changing. But the best players will always evolve.'

Jim Furyk
2003 U.S. Open winner

player — who won at age 51 during his second stint as captain.

Furyk never had great length off the tee, and it stands out even more now.

He is a pea shooter in an era of cannons.

And he's still going strong.

"So impressive," said Brooks Koepka, the No. 1 player in the world. "I've played with him a little bit. He really understands his game. And I think when you fully understand what you can and can't do is when you reach your maximum potential. He doesn't have the big miss. He doesn't have really any weakness. He's very solid all throughout the bag. ... That probably won't be me when I'm 49, I can promise you that."

Furyk was determined to press on after Europe won the Ryder Cup in France last fall. He was coping with a shoulder injury. Now that's sorted out.

He had every reason to go into ceremonial mode, especially with the PGA Tour Champions — golf's greatest mulligan — available to him next year. Instead, Furyk toiled in the offseason to find balance at home and work, to give himself the best chance to win.

"You have to have a motivation and a drive and a hunger to still compete," Furyk said. "And as you get older, you run through different phases of your life. When I first came out on tour, golf was the most important thing in life. I got married, started a family, and the realization we're going to be empty-nesters in a few years has hit me."

It all changed in March when he tied for ninth in the Honda Classic to tie in The Players Championship, and then was runner-up at the TPC Sawgrass, one shot behind Rory McIlroy. That got him into a World Golf Championship.

He nearly made it into the Masters, but returning to the top 50 in the world put him in the next three majors. He now is No. 48 in the world, giving him another World Golf Championship next week.

TOUR DE FRANCE/BRITISH OPEN

Britain's
Yates too
tough in
Pyrenees

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BAGNERES-DE-BIGORRE, France — British rider Simon Yates posted his first Tour de France stage win on Thursday after a long breakaway in the Pyrenees mountains.

Yates, who won the Spanish Vuelta last year, launched a counterattack behind a group of fugitives in a technical downhill and was joined at the front by Gregor Muhlberger and Pello Bilbao.

The trio worked well together until the final sprint shaped up 200 meters from the finish line in Bagneres-de-Bigorre. Yates launched the sprint, was first into the last turn and held off Bilbao for the victory.

"I wasn't very confident in beating them," said Yates. "I didn't know how fast these two riders were but my sport director told me to take the last corner in first position and I'm glad it worked out well. To have a stage at all three Grand Tours makes me very proud."

As the Tour hit high mountains with a stage featuring two first-category climbs, the main favorites closely watched each other and did not attack, saving strength for the super hard days still to come. The main pack of contenders crossed the finish line 9 minutes, 35 seconds behind the winner, with no major change in the overall standings. Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe kept the race leader's yellow jersey ahead of Friday's time trial in Pau, 1 minute, 12 seconds ahead of defending champion Geraint Thomas.

Thomas' teammate Egan Bernal, the Ineos co-leader, remained in third place, a further four seconds behind.



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

Britain's Simon Yates crosses the finish line Thursday to win the 12th stage of the Tour de France over 130 miles from Toulouse to Bagneres-de-Bigorre, France.



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke tees off the fourth hole Thursday during the first round of the British Open at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland. Clarke hit the first tee shot of the tournament, which is back in Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years.

Holmes shoots 66 for lead

Northern Ireland's Clarke hits first shot at Portrush

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — It was about 6:30 a.m. when Darren Clarke, sporting a gray beard to match his swept-back gray hair, walked onto the first tee at Royal Portrush to hit the opening shot of a British Open he thought would never happen.

He almost welled up when his name was announced to applause from the packed horseshoe grandstand at No. 1 and the galleries lining the fairway.

An hour later, he was leading the championship after three birdies in his opening five holes, receiving the kind of roars he hasn't heard since lifting the claret jug at Royal St. George's in 2011.

His lead didn't hold up, though. First Shane Lowry set the target with a 4-under 67, eight shots lower than his best opening round in the other three majors this year.

Lowry was overtaken by J.B. Holmes after the American birdied the last hole for a 5-under 66, leaving him a stroke clear of Lowry.

Holmes' only bogey of the day came at the par-4 first hole. Jon Rahm had been tied with Holmes but missed a 3-foot par

putt at No. 15 to drop out of the lead. It was his second bogey of the back nine, having made five birdies to go out in 31.

Brooks Koepka had been sharing the lead with Lowry but made his first bogey of the day, at the 17th, to drop to 3 under.

Among others at 3 under were Dylan Frittelli, the last man to qualify for the Open by winning the John Deere Classic, Sergio Garcia, Webb Simpson and Alex Noren.

"I didn't think I'd feel the way I did," said Clarke, who was just as emotional as he strode down the 18th fairway, saluting the crowds with his putter in his right hand.

Clarke wound up shooting an even-par 71. If the score wasn't memorable, the experience certainly was.

With "The Troubles" mainly behind them since the 1998 Good Friday peace accord, the Northern Irish are hosting golf's oldest major for the first time since Max Faulkner won at Royal Portrush in 1951. It is back 68 years later, in a pretty town Clarke now calls home.

Graeme McDowell, born and raised in Portrush and a member at adjacent Rathmore Golf Club, was one shot out of the early lead



PETER MORRISON/AP

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy looks for his ball in the long rough on the first hole. McIlroy shot an 8-over-par 79.

when he three-putted for bogey on the 15th and dropped another shot on the 17th. Then, he sent his drive well to the right on the 18th hole into grass so thick that he never found the golf ball in the three minutes allowed for the search.

He went back to the tee for his third shot and missed a 7-foot putt to take triple bogey.

On the leaderboard for so much of his round, he signed for a 73.

Rory McIlroy said heightened expectations played no part in his 8-over 79 that has already ended any realistic chances of winning the British Open.

"I'm pretty sure anyone starting with a 79 in this golf tournament doesn't think about winning at this point," he said.

SPORTS



N. Ireland's first major
in 68 years tees off
British Open, Page 63

HALL OF FAME

Built for this

Just as in his 18 big league seasons,
Martinez meticulous in approach
to Cooperstown preparation



AP photos

BY TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE

Edgar Martinez trained for every aspect of his career.

As a player, he spent nearly two decades doing daily eye exercises to overcome strabismus, a condition that prevented his eyes from seeing in tandem. Rather than letting that become the excuse that kept him out of baseball, Martinez became arguably the best right-handed hitter of his generation and the prototype for what a designated hitter can be.

As a coach, he was a meticulous planner, often one of the first in the clubhouse daily. Before taking swings during batting practice — more than a decade after his last game — Martinez spent a week taking BP. He wasn't about to be unprepared before putting on a show players and fellow coaches wouldn't forget.

Why should his training and preparation be any different for his first speech as a Hall of Famer?

SEE APPROACH ON PAGE 59



'I think it's like anything — if you want to do it right and do well you have to practice.'

Edgar Martinez
former Seattle Mariners
designated hitter, pictured



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